

## River Spirit celebrates grand opening March 31

GAMING - A5



## Education Spotlight: Okemah Indian Community

EDUCATION - A8



# MUSCOGEE NATION NEWS

**MARCH 2009**  
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[www.themuskeegecreeknation.com](http://www.themuskeegecreeknation.com)

## Chief's Order under fire

• Executive Order will affect all chartered communities



MNN/Rebecca Landsberry

Pictured above is Principal Chief A.D. Ellis flanked by National Council Recording Secretary Terry Fish (left) and Speaker Thomas Yahola (right) at the Emergency Session on Mon., March 3. Representatives from many of the communities named in the case voiced their opinions on the Chief's Executive Order that will restructure the way gaming revenue is distributed to communities within the Nation. A hearing for case CV 2009-33 is set for Tues., March 17 at 2 p.m., in the MCN District Courtroom.

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### SHAPING THE FUTURE

OKMULGEE — On Friday, February 27, 2009, Principal Chief A.D. Ellis signed an Executive Order for the proclamation of actions required for the Muskegee (Creek) Indian Gaming Communities.

The Order states, "By virtue of the executive authority vested in me as Principal Chief by the Constitution of the Muskegee (Creek) Nation (the "Nation"), it is hereby ordered that the following actions be adopted and implemented."

MCN/Thompson Gouge

SEE COMMUNITIES - B2

## College to build in Fall '09

• CMN inks deal for 15-acre tract of land near OSUIT campus

by Thompson Gouge  
MCN Public Relations

OKMULGEE — Principal Chief A.D. Ellis sat down with Oklahoma State University Institute of Technology President Bob Klabenes for a press conference on Fri., Feb. 20, 2009 on the College of the Muskegee Nation's newly purchased land.

The Muskegee (Creek) Nation and OSUIT jointly announced that fifteen acres of university land has been purchased for the College of the Muskegee Nation's campus. Chief Ellis and President Klabenes completed the transfer of land to the Muskegee Nation at the College of the Muskegee Nation Administration building.

This 15-acre tract of land was purchased by an Indian Community Development Block Grant (I.C.D.B.G.) with matching funds from gaming revenue of the Muskegee (Creek) Nation. The campus will consist of a multi-use Facility, cultural and learning center, classroom building, fitness center, amphitheater and Mvskoke garden.

Tribal and academic representatives included Muskegee (Creek) National Council Speaker Thomas Yahola, Rep. James Jennings, Chief of Staff Mike Flud and CMN regents Chair Ramona Mason, President James King and Academic Dean Angela Bunner.

Chief Ellis stated, "Gaming



MNN/Thompson Gouge

Pictured (Front Row L-R) are President of Oklahoma State University Institute of Technology, Dr. Bob Klabenes, Principal Chief of the Muskegee Creek Nation, A.D. Ellis. Back Row L-R: College of the Muskegee Nation President. Dr James King, CMN Regents Chair, Ramona Mason, CMN Academic Dean, Angela Bunner, Speaker of the National Council, Speaker Thomas Yahola, National Council Rep. James Jennings, and Muskegee Creek Nation Chief of Staff Mike Flud.

money was used to purchase this land for the benefit of tribal citizens and the community in general. This is a great event for both the Muskegee Nation and the state."

Dr. Klabenes further emphasized, "This will be an excellent opportunity for all students pursuing a post-secondary education. With this purchase, we will an educational complex composed of OSUIT, Green Country Technology Center and the CMN, all within a mile of one another."

Board of Regent's Chair Ramona Mason noted, "The Board is very pleased to have land for the campus and a site for our first building. I am excited for our students and tribal citizens as well."

The College of the Muskegee Nation is a two-year Associate Degree level higher education institution and one of four tribal colleges within the state of Oklahoma. The college plans to start construction on its first building in six months.

## "Doing Business in Indian Country" set for March 12

by Christopher Azbell  
MCN District Court

OKMULGEE—The Muskegee (Creek) Nation's 7th annual "Doing Business in Indian Country" Continuing Legal Education (CLE) Seminar is set for March 12 and 13, 2009 at the tribal complex in Okmulgee, Okla.

The two-day event will focus on ways in which tribes and businesses can work together to positively affect the faltering economy. Professors, educators and other dignitaries will discuss issues associated with energy development, proposed Class II gaming regulations and tribal investments.

SEE BUSINESS - A4



"Doing Business in Indian Country" Seminar to Focus on Stimulating the Economy

- 2009 Muskegee (Creek) Nation CLE

## River Spirit grand opening set for March 31

by Pat Schnake  
River Spirit Public Relations Manager

TULSA — River Spirit Casino will open March 31, according to Director of Marketing Jennifer Cross.

The new \$195 million casino, located just south of the existing casino at 81st and Riverside, will include one of Oklahoma's largest gaming floors. The 300,000 square-foot casino will feature state-of-the-art amenities including 2,800 high-tech machines, 24 table games, 15

poker games, four dining venues and the uniquely-designed Mystic River Lounge.

"River Spirit Casino will bring a one-of-kind gaming, entertainment and dining experience to Tulsa and the surrounding areas," said Cross. "We are extremely excited about our opening and showcasing this incredible new facility to our guests."

SEE SPIRIT - A5

## EXECUTIVE A2

From the Office of Principal Chief A.D. Ellis



## TRIBAL COUNCIL A3

National Council minutes



## LEGISLATIVE A4

Rep. Alexander responds to statements made by Principal Chief



## BUSINESS/GAMING A5

Tulsa Casino will host grand opening later this month



## HEALTH A6

Smile for Dental Assistant Recognition Week




## PROGRAMS/NOTICES A7

VASO seeks assistance with KIA project





EXECUTIVE



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Deadline for submissions to be considered for inclusion in the next edition is the **third Friday of the previous month. The Muscogee Nation News** reserves the right to edit all submissions for space, style and grammar. Receipt of submissions does not obligate **The Muscogee Nation News** in any regard.

**The Muscogee Nation News** is mailed First Class from Stigler, Okla., to all enrolled citizens' house-holds upon request and proof of citizenship. Inquiries should be directed to the tribal communica-tions department. Please include your tribal enrollment number with all correspondence.

**TO CHANGE OR SUBMIT AN ADDRESS, PLEASE CALL (918) 732-7720 or send e-mail to: wmurphy@muscogeenation-nsn.gov.**

Letter from the Editor



H e n - sci *Muscokee Nation News* fans, I figured since there won't be an Extra Edition published this month, I wanted to take the opportunity to put my two cents here in the corner.

Wild onion season is in full swing, the daffodils are popping up and the breeze is slowly warming up - Spring has officially sprung. Ok well maybe not "officially" until the 20th, but I'm still glad I don't have to wear a coat outside anymore!

For many of the sports fans, this month means much more than pots-of-gold and little green men wearing tights, March means "Madness." Jason has the full scoop on the tournament on page B7, but the showing of these amazing Indian athletes from all over the United States to the Mvskoke Etlvlv is a sight to be seen. If you're a fan of Native sports, 4 Love of the Game's Madness in March tournament is an event not to be missed.

In other news, you have probably noticed the large number of letters to the Editor and I hope you are as excited as I am about this spike in the interest of the well-being of our Nation. Keep 'em coming and we will continue to facilitate your comments, concerns or issues regarding Indian Country.

From the Office of the Principal Chief

From Chief Ellis

Submitted March 2, 2009

This is a quick and short explanation of my Executive Order and petition filed in court February 27, 2009. I will have more information in the next edition.

Six (6) communities of the twenty-four (24) that are active have small casinos and get 50 percent of all the profits that are generated. These six are on tribal property, in tribal buildings, and are operated by the Nation, yet they still give the communities 50 percent. For instance, Duck Creek Community last month got \$300,000.00, which was their 50



Principal Chief A.D. Ellis

percent. The 50 percent law was passed years ago by the Council.

From my stand point, the gaming revenue belongs to all Creek people, not just the few hundred that belong to these gaming communities. Communities like Sapulpa, Glenpool, Wetumka, and many more don't get the chance to fly to Florida or charter buses to Branson, Missouri or get free appliances for their homes. We estimate that these six communities have approximately 21 to 25 million dollars in the bank at this time. At

present, we have no way of knowing. The following are the gaming communities: Eufaula, Checotah, Duck Creek, Okemah, Holdenville and Bristow.

I believe all gaming monies should come to the Nation, in the Nation's bank account to be used for health care, education, etc. for all Creek people, not the lucky few who happen to live in a certain communities. Politically, this is unfair because these powerful communities dictate what their council representatives should do for their reelection.

In a few more years, if nothing is done, these communities will have more money than this Nation. That would mean that they could even con-

trol the Chief's position along with all other elected official. I will not let this happen. I'm asking the communities who have no way to generate revenue to come forward and demand that they be treated equally. Also Tulsa, Muscogee, and Okmulgee might even demand their share of Casino revenue from their local Casino.

The most serious part is that if a casino and its profits are not used correctly, this could jeopardize our entire gaming operation. If this happens we would be destroyed financially. This Nation has to have control of all gaming operations and gaming revenue to correctly follow federal law.

Mvto!

From the Office of the Second Chief

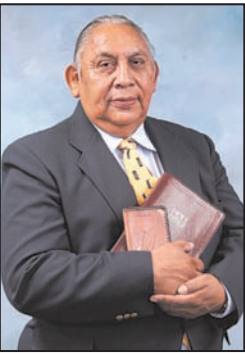
Second Opinion

Submitted Feb. 27, 2009

Henks Ce! Blessings to all the citizens of the great Muscogee Creek Nation! I want to introduce to you a campaign on the war against methamphetamine which is infecting our People, young and old alike.

The recent headlines in the newspapers and on the television networks have focused on the dramatic increase in the use of methamphetamine and the dangers this drug possesses. The Muscogee Creek Nation is not immune to this crisis.

The Second Chief's Office, Light-



Second Chief Berryhill

horse, and the DEA are addressing this concern by initiating a campaign titled "Don't Let Meth Fool You!" Hopefully, this campaign will create an awareness of the addictive nature of this epidemic. The "Don't Let Meth Fool You" campaign will include public service announcements on radio and television, posters, community trainings, and continuing articles from the Creek Nation departments (Social Services, Children & Family, Indian Child Welfare), and law enforcement.

Within the last week, arrests were made in a southeast Oklahoma City motel where two men were found manufacturing meth and, in neighboring Broken Arrow, the local police have busted nine meth labs so far this year. The migration of this drug into the Creek Nation boundaries should not surprise you. The Broken Arrow Police report the spike in meth labs are due to a new method called "shake and bake." This recipe requires fewer ingredients and takes about half the time to process than the old way.

The Muscogee Creek Nation is the first Tribal Agency nationwide, in conjunction with the DEA, to join a High Intensity Drug Area task force.

The Native American program, of which the Creek Nation is a sub unit, has experienced a number of success stories. Recent arrests have involved the seizure of 12 lbs. of meth within the Creek Nation boundaries which resulted in the dismantling of an international drug trafficking organization.

I will continue to update you on what you, as family and community members, can do to recognize the characteristics of meth users and the everyday household chemicals used to manufacture this drug.

Alfred Berryhill  
2nd Chief of the Muscogee Creek Nation

Letters to the Editor

Citizen asks for clarification of housing policy and procedure

On July 3, 2008 I went to Creek Nation Housing where I interviewed JoEllen Frank. JoEllen is in charge of admissions for Creek Nation Housing.

I asked JoEllen what the process to get a house through Creek Nation housing was. She stated that you were required to fill out an application. Once the application was completed your application information was verified and if you met the qualifications, you were approved for the waiting list.

She stated that there were preferences that figured in as you were assigned a place on the list. Full through half-blood quantum were first. There were then factors such as having a large family, being elderly, handicapped or disabled that were used in the process. I would then go further down the list than ½ blood quantum, single and being a member of another tribe. The approval date on your initial application was also a factor.

JoEllen states that their application and approval policies have changed several times in the last three years.

When the yearly budget for the Housing Department is set each year the Development Division calls for the number of files that will be needed to use the allotted amount of money. These files are updated by admissions and forwarded to Development. These will be the citizens that will be offered housing for that year. In the past year the policy was changed that allowed for half of the files will be full to ½ blood quantum and the other half will be less than ½ blood quantum.

I asked JoEllen if it was possible to move someone up on the list. She stated that you couldn't do that because they entered all data into a computer system and the computer sets where that individual should be. She did state that a person could move up if there was a change in their status ex. (a person reached 62 years old, it would move them up to the elderly category). She did state that the Deputy Director of Housing could direct that files be sent to the Development division, or that the Development Division could request a specific file.

I asked JoEllen if she was the only

one that could forward a file to the Development Division and she stated that she was. I asked what happened if a file was needed while she was on vacation and she stated that they would wait until she got back.

I asked JoEllen what chance a single person with no children and less than ½ blood quantum would have receiving housing and she told me that it would be slim.

I ask then ask Jo Ellen 0if she had ever been approached by anyone to move a person up the list and he stated that she hadn't. I asked her if anyone had ever told her to move someone up on the list and she told me that they hadn't.

I showed JoEllen paperwork showing Brandy Hudgens as a single person with no children with less than ½ blood quantum had received a house this year. She told me that it was because it was built on donated land. She stated that Geri Johnson had requested all files with donated land be forwarded to the Development Division.

(The memorandum is written to Chief Ellis from Shannon Cozzoni, First Assistant Attorney General regarding the subject, Criminal Investigation of Receipt of Indian Housing, Dated July 7, 2008).

The following memorandum is in response to a request to investigate the receipt of a home from the Housing Division's affordable housing activities by Gary Hudgens and his children, Brandy and Clinton. Based on information gathered by interviews, a summary of which is attached, it is our conclusion that the issues presented are administrative issues that should be remedied within the Housing Department:

It appears that Mr. Hudgens received financial assistance from the mortgage assistance program, which presumably is an exception to the low-income requirement. Mr. Hudgens purchased property on his own from a vendor utilized by the Housing Division and built a house utilizing a vendor who does business with the Housing Division. There is no criminal action related to this transaction. However, we recommend the development of specific policy regarding the involvement of employees with vendors.

Mr. Hudgens' children both received a home from the Housing Division according to Ms. Frank. Although apparently eligible for a home, they should never have received a home under current policies of preference; however, it appears an exception to policy was granted for "donated property" construction when Gerri Berryhill requested those files. There is no allegation that the Hudgens' children falsified any documents. Instead someone internal to the housing Division violated policies and moved them up on the list. The Housing Division should determine if that person was Gerri Berryhill or if the request was made by someone above her.

As you are aware, this is not the first time this office has received complaints that people were receiving homes because of their relationships or political affiliation. In accordance with MCN-CA Title 24, Sec. 2-102.B.the Deputy Director of the Housing Division shall "supervise, direct and monitor the day-to-day work and activities of the Housing Division's employees, contractors or other persons or entities". The Deputy Director of the Housing Division reports directly to the Executive Director. Although our office is always available to assist, direct responsibility in insuring that policies are adhered to lies with Deputy Director and the Executive Director. We have no authority to effect the adherence to policies as that is an administrative function.

Based on this complaint and others, you may want to consider a programmatic audit of the Nation's Housing Division. In addition, we recommend specific policy implementation regarding applications of Housing Division employees and their immediate family. You may also want to consider the removal of some or all of the signature authority granted to the Deuty director or the Executive Director.

Randy Lawmaster  
Criminal Investigator

**Constitutional Commission responds to Jones' comments**  
Dear Editor:

This is a response by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Constitutional Con-

vention Commission to Mr. Gordon L. Jones' letter to the Editor cited in the February 2009 issue of the *Muscogee Nation News*.

It is a fact that Mr. Jones had sent in a proposal to amend the Constitution as did many other Muscogee (Creek) citizens. On August 23, 2008 a letter to the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Citizenship Board was delivered requesting verification of Mr. Gordon L. Jones' citizenship. On October 23, 2008 the Citizenship Board reported that they had no record that Mr. Gordon L. Jones was enrolled.

Based on the October 28, 2008 letter from the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Citizenship Board the proposal from Mr. Jones was eliminated in the process of organizing all submitted documents. However, Mr. Jones' proposal was in reference to elimination of blood quantum and there were 12 other proposals listing the same issue. The Constitutional Convention Commission combined all proposals with the same issue; therefore Mr. Jones' issue continued to be presented before the Constitutional Convention and acted upon by all those present.

On a final note, each Commissioner is also a Muscogee (Creek) tribal member selected to serve on the Constitutional Commission by each district's National Council Representatives, the Executive Office of the Principal Chief and the Judicial Branch of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation.

The Commissioners were charged with a very difficult task to develop a process, prepare, organize and create a historical event that all Muscogee (Creek) voters could experience. Many hours of debate, discussions, interpretations and decisions were made by this group of tribal members who had to set aside all personal agendas and come together as a working team. The guiding factor was always to follow the Constitution and to maintain that the Convention was for the Muscogee (Creek) citizens.

Sincerely,  
Patrick E. Moore, Chairman  
Muscogee (Creek) Nation  
Constitutional Convention Commission



LEGISLATIVE

OKMULGEE — THE FOLLOWING CONSISTS OF ACTIONS OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATIONAL COUNCIL CONDUCTED AT THE JANUARY 31, QUARTERLY SESSION.

**JANUARY 31, QUARTERLY SESSION**

**VETO MESSAGE:**

- MOTION MADE TO LET VETO STAND WITHOUT READING THE MESSAGE APPROVED (25-0-0)

**ORDER OF BUSINESS:**

- APPROVED (25-0-0) NCR09-001, A RESOLUTION OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATIONAL COUNCIL AMENDING NCR 95-19 (A RESOLUTION OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATIONAL COUNCIL CREATING AND ESTABLISHING THE POSITION OF FINANCIAL OFFICER OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL) SPONSOR: TRAVIS SCOTT
- APPROVED TO ADOPT (25-0-0) TR 09-005, A TRIBAL RESOLUTION OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION AUTHORIZING THE GAMING OPERATIONS AUTHORITY BOARD TO EXECUTE A CONTRACT WITH VIDEO GAMING TECHNOLOGIES, INC. FOR A TERM OF THREE YEARS SPONSOR: SAM ALEXANDER
- APPROVED TO ADOPT (25-0-0) TR 09-008, A TRIBAL RESOLUTION OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION RECOGNIZING AND HONORING THE FLUENT SPEAKERS OF THE EU-CHEE LANGUAGE SPONSOR: ROBERT HUFFT; CO-SPONSOR: R. BARNETT; T. YAHOLA; T. ANDERSON; K. MEDINA; C. QUIETT; L. WIND
- APPROVED TO ADOPT (25-0-0) TR 09-009, A TRIBAL RESOLUTION OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION AUTHORIZING THE OPERATIONS AUTHORITY BOARD TO PURCHASE AND INSTALL A NEW SIGN FOR THE CREEK NATION CASINO DUCK CREEK AND TO EXECUTE CONTRACTS WITH THE SELECTED CONTRACTOR FOR SAID SIGN SPONSOR: DAVID NICHOLS
- APPROVED TO ADOPT (25-0-0) TR 09-012, A TRIBAL RESOLUTION

OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION APPROVING WIRELESS SERVICE AGREEMENTS BETWEEN THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION AND VERIZON WIRELESS AND FOR CELLULAR PHONES FOR THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATIONAL COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE AND STAFF SPONSOR: TRAVIS SCOTT

- APPROVED TO ADOPT (25-0-0) NCA 09-002, A LAW OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION APPROPRIATING FUNDS AWARDED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE KING COLE DEPOT TOURIST INFORMATION CENTER AND TRANSPORTATION MUSEUM PROJECT SPONSOR: BILL FIFE; CO-SPONSOR(S): L. CAHWEE (\$1,388,866.00)
- APPROVED TO ADOPT (17-8-0) NCA 09-003, A LAW OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION APPROPRIATING ADDITIONAL FUNDS FOR THE COMPLETION OF THE KELLYVILLE INDIAN COMMUNITY BUILDING SPONSOR: ROGER BARNETT (\$1,354,751.00)

REPRESENTATIVES VOTING NO WERE: **PETE BEAVER; DAVID NICHOLS; KEEPER JOHNSON; TERRIE ANDERSON; JAMES JENNINGS; STEVE BRUNER; PAULA WILLITS AND JOHNNIE GREENE.**

REPRESENTATIVES **ROGER BARNETT** AND **BILL FIFE** WERE OUT OF SEAT AT TIME OF CASTING OF VOTE.

- APPROVED TO ADOPT (22-1-0) NCA 09-005, A LAW OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION AUTHORIZING A BUDGET MODIFICATION FOR NCA 07-340 (A LAW FOR THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION AUTHORIZING AND APPROPRIATION FOR A RECORDS MANAGEMENT & MAINTENANCE PROJECT FOR MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION TRIBAL DOCUMENTS) SPONSOR: SAM ALEXANDER

VOTING NO WAS REPRESENTATIVE **TRAVIS SCOTT.**

REPRESENTATIVE **ROGER BAR-**

**NETT** WAS OUT OF SEAT AT TIME OF CASTING OF VOTE.

- APPROVED TO ADOPT (24-0-0) NCA 09-006, A LAW OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION AUTHORIZING A SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION TO THE OFFICE OF THE TAX COMMISSION SPONSOR: DAVID NICHOLS (\$40,231.00)

REPRESENTATIVE **ROGER BARNETT** WAS OUT OF SEAT AT TIME OF CASTING OF VOTE.

- APPROVED TO ADOPT (24-0-0) NCA 09-010, A LAW OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION APPROPRIATING FUNDS TO SEVEN (7) OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) COMMUNITY CENTERS TO RENEW SATELLITE INTERNET SERVICES THROUGH WILD BLUE COMPANY FOR THE PURCHASE OF ALLOWING CITIZENS TO VIEW MEETINGS OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL AND OTHER TRIBAL ACTIVITIES SPONSOR: JAMES JENNINGS (\$7,767.60)

REPRESENTATIVE **ROGER BARNETT** WAS OUT OF SEAT AT TIME OF CASTING OF VOTE.

- APPROVED TO ADOPT (24-0-0) NCA 09-011, A LAW OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION AUTHORIZING THE EXPENDITURE OF THE COPS UNIVERSAL HIRING GRANT AND APPROPRIATING TRIBAL MATCHING FUNDS FOR THE LIGHTHORSE TRIBAL POLICE SPONSOR: BILL FIFE (\$136,158.00)

REPRESENTATIVES **ROGER BARNETT** AND **BILL FIFE** WERE OUT OF SEAT AT TIME OF CASTING OF VOTE.

- APPROVED TO ADOPT (23-0-0) NCA 09-012, A LAW OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION AMENDING NCA 07-031 (A LAW OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION CREATING AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY SPONSOR: LARRY CAHWEE

REPRESENTATIVES **ROGER BARNETT** AND **BILL FIFE** WERE OUT OF SEAT AT TIME OF CASTING OF



VOTE.

- APPROVED TO ADOPT (20-3-0) NCA 09-013, A LAW OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION AUTHORIZING A SPECIAL APPROPRIATION TO DEPEW PUBLIC SCHOOLS FOR ASSISTANCE TO PURCHASE THREE (3) PORTABLE HEART DEFIBRILLATORS SPONSOR: DAVID HILL; CO-SPONSOR: LARRY CAHWEE (\$2,204.09)

REPRESENTATIVE **ROGER BARNETT** WAS OUT OF SEAT AT TIME OF CASTING OF VOTE.

- APPROVED TO ADOPT (21-2-1) NCA 09-015, A LAW OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION AUTHORIZING A SPECIAL APPROPRIATION TO ASSIST TWO (2) TRIBAL YOUTH AND THEIR SPONSOR IN PARTICIPATING IN THE MID-YEAR UNITY CONFERENCE IN WASHINGTON, D.C. SPONSOR: SELINA JAYNE-DORNAN (\$2,075.00)

REPRESENTATIVES VOTING NO WERE: **TERRIE ANDERSON AND JOHNNIE GREENE.**

ABSTAINING WAS REPRESENTATIVE **CHERRAH QUIETT.**

REPRESENTATIVE **ROGER BARNETT** WAS OUT OF SEAT AT TIME OF CASTING OF VOTE.

- APPROVED TO ADOPT (21-0-3) NCA 09-016, A LAW OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION AUTHORIZING A SPECIAL APPROPRIATION TO ASSIST IN FUNDING THE 2009 "RETURN TO

YOUR ROOTS FOOD SOVEREIGNTY SYMPOSIUM" SPONSOR: TERRIE ANDERSON; CO-SPONSOR(S): J. JENNINGS; D. NICHOLS (\$21,300.00)

ABSTAINING WAS REPRESENTATIVES: **TRAVIS SCOTT; LENA WIND AND CHERRAH QUIETT.**

REPRESENTATIVE **ROGER BARNETT** WAS OUT OF SEAT AT TIME OF CASTING OF VOTE.

- APPROVED TO ADOPT (23-0-1) NCA 09-018, A LAW OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION AUTHORIZING A SPECIAL APPROPRIATION TO COVER EXPENSES INCURRED BY AND/OR PARTIALLY FUND THE 2008 ANNUAL NATIVE AMERICAN AA SOBRIETY POWWOW HELD DECEMBER 27TH AND 28TH, 2008 IN TULSA, OKLAHOMA SPONSOR: SAM ALEXANDER (\$500.00)

ABSTAINING WAS REPRESENTATIVE **CHERRAH QUIETT.**

REPRESENTATIVE **ROGER BARNETT** WAS OUT OF SEAT AT TIME OF CASTING OF VOTE.

- APPROVED TO ADOPT (21-2-1) NCA 09-019, A LAW OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION AUTHORIZING A SPECIAL APPROPRIATION TO FINANCIALLY ASSIST AND ELDERLY CREEK CITIZEN SPONSOR: SHIRLENE ADE (\$821.23)

REPRESENTATIVES VOTING NO WERE: **TERRIE ANDERSON AND PAULA WILLITS.**

ABSTAINING WAS REPRESENTA-

Legal Notices (con't on B2)

DISTRICT COURT

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION

Muscogee (Creek) Nation  
Plaintiff,  
vi.  
Two Thousand Dollar, Four Hundred, Ninety-Eight Dollars and no/100 (\$2,498.00) Cash Jackpot and Six Hundred Eight Dollars and 54/100 (\$608.54) Tickets,  
Defendant.

Case No. CV 2008-161

ORDER FOR CONTINUANCE

NOW, on this 17 day of February, 2009, the Motion for Continuance filed by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation comes on before me, the undersigned Judge of the District Court, and the Court, having examined such Motion, and being fully advised in the premises, finds that the Muscogee (Creek) Nation's Motion for Continuance should be granted.

IT IS THEREFORE, ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED, by the Court:

That the Hearing in the above-filed case previously scheduled for February 23, 2009 at 10:00 a.m. is continued to April 22, 2009 at 10:00 A.M. and that notice of said hearing shall be given to the parties as required by law.

PATRICK E. MOORE  
DISTRICT COURT JUDGE

Interior employees, including Chalakee Sisters, welcome First Lady Michelle Obama

Media Release  
U.S. Department of the Interior

WASHINGTON, D.C. —Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar welcomed First Lady Michelle Obama to the Department of the Interior, hailing her as “a rock for the future of the nation.” The third visit of the First Lady to a federal department since President Obama’s inauguration featured a ceremony rooted in Interior’s responsibilities to Native Americans—Indian drum rolls and presentation of a shawl marking her achievements.

Joined by some of the department’s longest-serving employees on stage, the First Lady and Secretary thanked all employees for their service and reaffirmed President Barack Obama’s commitment to investing in conservation to help put people back to work as well as his commitment to respecting sovereign Indian nations.

“At a time when so many Americans are out of work, sound energy and environmental policies are going to create thousands of jobs through the economic recovery and investment plan,” Mrs. Obama told a capacity crowd of employees.



Employees presented the First Lady with a traditional American Indian woman’s shawl with an appliqué horse pattern—a mark of respect to honor women of high achievements and distinction. Nedra Darling, Director of Public Affairs in the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs, presented the shawl, which was made by Marian Hansson, curator of the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

Sitting among the 16 DOI employ-

ees being honored by the First Lady, Michele Obama, were sisters Thelma Chalakee Harjo and Barbara Chalakee Davis of Arlington, Va., who are members of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. Their parents are the late Martha and Webster Chalakee of Okmulgee. The sisters were honored for their length of service to the Department. Harjo has 45 years and Davis has 47 years of service with the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

Received

FEB 26 2009

DISTRICT COURT

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION OKMULGEE DISTRICT

IN THE MATTER OF THE GUARDIANSHIP OF THE PERSON AND ESTATE OF K. N. C., minor child.

Case No. GD 2008-13

Judge Patrick E. Moore

SERVICE OF SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION NOTICE

To: William John Corbett

TAKE NOTICE that you have been sued for Guardianship of a Minor Child in the District Court of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Okmulgee District, GD-2008-13, styled In re the Guardianship of K.N.C., a minor child. The action alleges that the petitioner is entitled guardianship over the minor child based on abandonment.

You are notified that you must answer the *Petition* filed by the petitioner on or before the 14<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2009, or the allegations contained in the *Petition* will be taken as true and judgment will be entered against you in favor of petitioner as prayed for in her *Petition*.

Given under my hand and seal this 19<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2009.

Nancy Julich, Court Clerk  
Muscogee (Creek) Nation District Court,  
Okmulgee District

By: *Debi King*  
(Deputy)

Approved:

Shannon L. Prescott, MCN#165  
Kacie R. Cresswell, MCN#568  
Laura N. Mathis, MCN #536  
MCN Citizen Legal Services  
114 N. Grand Ave, North Lobby  
Okmulgee, OK 74447  
(918) 756-1112  
(918) 756-1113  
Attorneys for Petitioner

Cynthia Fox

# McGraw Davisson Stewart

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# Rep. Alexander responds to statements made by Principal Chief

by Rep. Sam Alexander  
National Council Representative

OKMULGEE — The tribal web site contains a link to the Extraordinary Session held on Thurs., Feb. 12, 2009. There are a couple of errors in this story that need to be clarified.

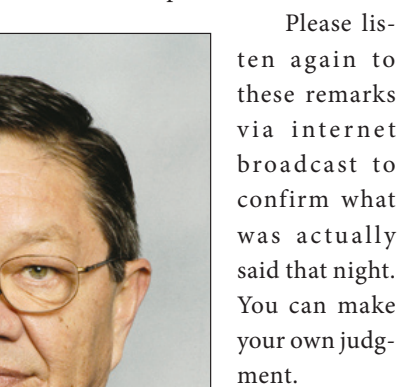
The following remarks attributed to me by Chief Ellis at that session are incorrect:

- “Mr. Alexander mentioned the Chief has vetoed many qualified people.”

- “It was mentioned the Executive Office failed to secure a tobacco compact.”

Following is a copy of my prepared remarks that evening. The word ‘veto’ is never expressed.

While there was discussion about initial tobacco compacts, there was no mention of the failure to secure a tobacco compact.



Please listen again to these remarks via internet broadcast to confirm what was actually said that night. You can make your own judgment.

“That we purportedly are the only Indian tribe in the country with a board over our health system is hardly a reason to destroy something that worked very well until recently.

The Principal Chief has shown how he would handle the medical arm of the tribe by suspending the

Director with no explanation at his first opportunity. Phrases like “not in the best interests” of the Nation and “change in direction” don’t cut it. We enjoy a tripartite form of government, and this branch of government remains uninformed about what’s happened to the Director. When communications are this poor, this body cannot rely on the administration to be open and honest.

Most of us know that, by having this health board in place, politics are kept at a distance. A similar comparison would be to look at how we buffer tribal gaming in the same manner. The National Indian Gaming Commission expects tribes to keep the politics out, and for good reason. In the past, we’ve had Principal Chiefs who believed they could interfere with gaming, and a strong GOAB kept them out. At one time, Rocket Bingo had the keys to our Tulsa Casino and operated their ball calling out of those offices.

There does not appear to be the requisite talent in the administration

to take on the responsibility of something as serious and technically complicated as our medical health care system. An example is the failure to have a plan or replacement when the current Director was suspended. This administration suspended the current Director and, with little preparation or planning, appointed an acting director who had a full schedule as a medical doctor.

In the summer of 2006, the Tulsa Creek Indian Community presented three small maintenance projects and had three bids for each. They asked for legislation for these needed repairs. About the same time, Chief Ellis asked this body to quit writing such legislation because his administration would handle things adequately. These projects and legislation were given to him in Speaker Tiger’s office. The driveway still has a huge hole by the kitchen entrance; they have no sign and do not have lighting for the north parking lot.

In the spring of 2006, the ad-

ministration announced the award of an \$800,000 HUD grant for a multipurpose building at the Claude Cox Omniplex and asked for \$1.5 million for the tribe’s part. A couple of months later they were back asking for another \$1.5 million and said we would be playing basketball over there in a year. In December 2008, they presented legislation that was flawed mathematically, asking for yet another \$1.2 million. This project displays the inability to perform.

Finally, the retail tobacco business is under assault by the State of Oklahoma. The administration has failed miserably in protecting the retail tobacco license holders and was in fact asleep at the wheel prior to the expiration of the initial tobacco compacts.

Now, they want to take over your health care system. Not on my watch. This legislation is unrealistic and unworthy of your support.

Business

Continued from A1

With a full slate of renowned speakers, the Conference will also highlight substantive changes in Federal Indian Law and provide an overview of state and federal court cases potentially impacting tribal interests.

University of Oklahoma Professor Shelly Grunsted commented

on the groundswell of enthusiasm surrounding this year’s event “The 7th Annual ‘Doing Business in Indian Country’ CLE will be our most substantive event yet. With the current economic outlook and credit crunch, I think more businesses are seeking out tribes to engage in joint ventures and to use tribal coffers as financial backing rather than risky Wall Street investment banks. With an unemployment rate far below the national average, tribes in

Oklahoma have proven their economic activities have greatly helped in the preservation of much needed jobs.”

The CLE is accredited through the Oklahoma Bar Association and lawyers can earn up to thirteen hours of OBA approved credit which includes one hour of ethics. At a recession-proof price of \$150.00, the tribe wants to ensure the conference remains affordable for all interested parties. Judge Patrick E. Moore recently commented on the

event, “I really think our CLE continues to be America’s best buy. We are continuing to lay the groundwork for all individuals seeking to do business with tribes. Interestingly, there are massive changes going on in Washington D.C., that will provide a huge economic boost for Indian tribes. The key is to have timely access to the information and the ability to respond when the opportunity arises. Hopefully, our CLE will help in disseminating the informa-

tion and identifying applicable areas where business opportunities may be available. This is a very interesting time for tribes and their business partners.”

Individuals seeking additional information on the “Doing Business in Indian County” CLE can contact the Muscogee (Creek) Nation District Court at (918)-758-1400 or can log on to [www.muscogee-creek-tribe-alcourt.org](http://www.muscogee-creek-tribe-alcourt.org).

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ST. PATRICKS ELECTRONIC GAMES  
TOURNAMENT  
4:30 PM - 9:00 PM

March 17th

CREEK NATION

Casino



# Grand opening this month



MNN/Starla Bush



## A GRAND OCCASION

With something for everyone, the River Spirit could very well become the place to be. A sports bar with plenty of screens to watch your favorite games, upscale steak-house dining with wine and live piano music, the largest buffet in the state, the Mystic River lounge sporting the latest technology and display of free live entertainment, all combine under one roof making the River Spirit Casino the place to be.

Just to give an idea of how big and bold this new gaming, food and music hot spot will be, over 600 new employees will be hired just to keep it running smoothly. Not only will the casino be one of the leaders in the in the gaming industry in the State, but it will also help to give a boost to the economy here as well.

MNN/Angel Ellis

### Spirit

Continued from A1

Cross said River Spirit Casino will continue to provide guests first class customer service along with exciting promotions, special reward offers and huge cash payouts. Another feature, not found in other gaming facilities, will be a prestigious High Stakes Lounge, which will cater to the casino's loyal V.I.P. customers.

"We pride ourselves on providing our guests with the best customer service of any gaming facility in the state," said Cross. "River Spirit Casino will allow us to enhance what our guests have already come to expect from us."

Cross said an additional 650 employees are being hired for River Spirit Casino.

"We have some great career opportunities at River Spirit Casino and we're proud to be able to contribute in a positive way to the Tulsa area job market and the area economy," said Cross.

River Spirit Casino will offer guests a wide variety of dining options. Ranging from Rain Bay Café, a 24-hour quick snack shop, to the upscale Elements Steakhouse and Grille – there's literally something for everyone.

Elements Steakhouse and Grille will offer new American cuisine. Adding to the dining experience will be a wide selection of wines, a warm, inviting fireplace and live piano music.

The new casino will also feature the largest casino buffet in Oklahoma. With seating for 400 guests, The Visions Buffet will offer a wide array of food options with an international flavor and will also feature a Thursday night



MNN/Starla Bush

Pictured above is the River Spirit Casino in Tulsa, which will be opening its doors at the grand-opening on Tues., March 31 to the general public. The opening of the casino has been a much anticipated event for tribal and gaming officials as well as for the citizens of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation.

seafood buffet.

"Not only will The Visions Buffet offer traditional American cuisine, but it will also offer guests Italian, Asian and other international options. It will be the only one of its kind in Oklahoma," said Cross.

The Scoreboard Sports Bar will allow guests to enjoy drinks, snacks and of course plenty of plasma and LCD TVs to watch their favorite teams.

Cross said they have hired some of the top chefs in the country to prepare and oversee all of the new casino's dining venues.

"Whether one of guests is interested in a quick sandwich or salad from Rain Bay Café or an upscale dining experience at Elements Steakhouse and Grille, all of our food will be first class," said Cross.

One of the more exciting features of River Spirit Casino will be

the Mystic River Lounge, which is located by the casino's main stage.

"Mystic River Lounge is uniquely designed and will feature a large stage and the newest technology in lighting and sound," said Cross. "We will be bringing in national and local acts. It will be the perfect place for guests to enjoy a drink and listen to free live entertainment."

"We have done everything right and our guests will notice it the minute they enter the facility," said Cross. "There's a lot to be done before we open on March 31, but we truly believe our guests will be blown away by River Spirit Casino."

For more information on the River Spirit Casino, please visit the official web site at [www.creeknationcasino.com](http://www.creeknationcasino.com).

## Home loans at historically low rates for Native American buyers

by Debbie Cooper  
Citizens Security Bank & Trust

TULSA — Local lender, Citizens Security Bank and Trust is an active HUD Approved Section 184 Lender. Current low interest rates make it even more attractive to use this program which is designed to facilitate homeownership in Native American communities.

With the Section 184 financing, borrowers can get into a home with a low down payment, no mortgage insurance and flexible underwriting.

For the potential home buyer, Section 184 is a great product, thanks to the low down payment requirement of 2.25 percent for loans over \$50,000. If the loan is under \$50,000 the down payment amount is 1.25 percent. Also, home buyers have to pay the mortgage insurance premium each month. Instead, a one-time, 1 percent loan guarantee fee can be added to the final loan amount.

A current home owner may want to use the loan program to pay off an

existing loan which has monthly mortgage insurance. The refinance alone could lower their payment by the removal of mortgage insurance premium in the monthly payment. Cash out refinances are allowed up to 85 percent of appraised property (LTV).

To use this loan program applicants must be American Indian or Alaska Native who are members of a federally recognized tribe. Presentation of a CDIB card is required.

Eligibility is also limited to single-family housing, Section 184 cannot be used for commercial properties or Adjustable Rate Mortgages (ARMs).

For additional information on this or any other real estate financing program, please contact the mortgage professionals at Citizens Security Bank and Trust at (918) 293-1700 or (918) 683-2600.

## Wills and estate planning project for Indian trust beneficiaries launches premier session

by Debby Pafel  
United States Department of the Interior

TULSA — Indian trust beneficiaries from any tribe will have the opportunity to receive assistance preparing their wills, inclusive of trust and non-trust assets. The Office of the Special Trustee for American Indians (OST) announces that the Oklahoma City University (OCU) Law School Clinical Program, the Oklahoma Bar Foundation, and the Cheyenne-Arapaho Tribes will offer this program.

"Over the years, I have heard tribal members express the need for help with the preparation of wills," said Henry Ware, Fiduciary Trust Officer (FTO) at OST's Concho Field Office and a legal services lawyer for many years. "I encourage beneficiaries to use the services

provided under this program to do their wills but also to contemplate gift deeds and other estate planning options."

OCU law school interns specializing in trust law will provide the service. Their efforts will be overseen by Casey Ross-Petherak, an attorney and assistant director of the school's Native American Legal Resource Center.

There will be eight sessions the first year of this program, to be scheduled during the spring 2009 and fall 2009 semesters for April 16 and Sept. 19 at Cheyenne-Arapaho locations. Tentative dates for sessions at the Anadarko Agency are April 8, Sept. 9, and Oct. 21.

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HEALTH

Today’s Trail of Tears:

The legacy of Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Part I

by Dan Cross  
Keetoowah Cherokee Treatment Services

TULSA — Sara\* sank into her easy chair and sobbed heaving sobs of burning tears; tears that seemed to bite her face in bitterness toward her. Her doctor said it was FAS, Fetal Alcohol Syndrome. Sara went numb with disbelief when he said that it was incurable. Her precious baby, Sam, would be like this the rest of his life.

Sara recoiled into the past to find proof the diagnosis was wrong, as she recalled how young Sam was conceived. “I did have fun in those days,” she thought with a slight smile breaking the weeping for a moment. She remembered the bar where she first met his father, a tall, dark granite sculpture of a man. Sure, it could have been the booze, but her blood seemed warm in her veins when she first laid eyes upon him.

Things progressed quickly between the two, and the fire waxed on as they partied together sometimes three to four nights a week for the next two months. Then, just as suddenly as he walked into her life in that bar, he was gone. But he left a memorial of their passion, soon evidenced by a missed period. Sara was pregnant.

Sam was slightly under-weight when born according to the OB GYN, “...but nothing to worry about. Let’s just monitor his weight gain,” she said. Sara noted that his ability to stand and learning to walk seemed to lag behind other kids at day care. She wondered then if he might be a little slow, but shrugged it off. As time passed she began to think something was wrong. Then she read about Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (FAS).

Sara scrambled through her memories attempting to figure exact-

ly when she conceived and how much alcohol she had consumed after that point in order to assuage the guilt. The facts are that medical science doesn’t know how much it takes to produce Fetal Alcohol Effects (FAE), yet many doctors still tell pregnant women that a glass of wine want hurt them or their baby. “While a doctor can’t say that a glass of wine will hurt the developing fetus, they also can’t say that it won’t,” observes Candace Shelton, M.S. “The best thing,” Shelton says, “is to not drink when having unprotected sex and through a pregnancy – or don’t have sex when drinking.”

Dan Cross, Keetoowah Cherokee Treatment Services, Tulsa, states, “The difference between today’s Trail of Tears and the original one is that Native’s are doing this one to themselves.” The Trail of Tears reference Cross makes relates to the fact that Fetal Alcohol Syndrome is 33 times more likely to occur in a Native American baby than a Caucasian baby, 37 times more than Hispanics, and five times more likely than a black baby. Cross notes, “FAS is totally preventable.”

Cross observed, “The pain stemming from injustices like the original Trail of Tears might be a huge contributing factor, but drinking and drugging while pregnant is self-inflicted. Many pregnancies occur during the course of drinking and drugging out of control.” Cross concludes that addiction treatment may be the best way to prevent alcohol and drug affected babies.

Shirlene Ade, National Council Representative, Tukvpytce District, challenged, “Our people must act to stop this path that we are on. We need to do this through treatment and prevention. This requires us to stand

up as individuals and as a tribe to take responsibility and act.” Ade and Keeper Johnson, National Council Representative, Okmulgee District, have been advocates of treatment and are looking at a new treatment facility in Wetumka.

Ade noted the recent grant of \$230,000 that the MCN provided 12&12, Inc., a Tulsa treatment facility, to provide inpatient detoxification for Creek citizens. “Creeks are taking action,” declared Ade, “It is time that we all do what is necessary to help ourselves, those we love, and those we know get the help they need.”

This article is the first in a series of articles that examine the epidemic of Fetal Alcohol & Drug Syndrome among tribal people. The goal is to raise awareness and empower individuals and communities to address this devastating issue.

The following are Native American treatment centers in or near the Muscogee Creek Nation service area:

- MCN Behavioral Health Services - 1313 E. 20th Okmulgee (918) 758-1910
- Koweta Indian Health Facility (MCN) - 31870 East Hwy 51, Coweta (918)279-3200
- Indian Health Care Resource Center - 550 S. Peoria Avenue, Tulsa 918-588-1900
- Keetoowah Cherokee Treatment Services – 2727 E Admiral Pl, Tulsa, I-244 at Delaware, 918-835-3017

*\* The names and events described are fictional but reflect a profile of people affected by Fetal Alcohol & Drug Syndrome.*

HEALTHNOTES

Smile for Dental Assistant Recognition Week!

by Jamie Campbell, DDS  
Okmulgee Indian Health Center

OKMULGEE — March 1-7, 2009 has been designated by the American Dental Assistants Association and the American Dental Association as Dental Assistants Recognition Week. One week each year is set aside to honor the hard work and dedication of dental assistants.

Dental Assistants are an integral part of the dental team. The most observable duty of dental assistants is chair side assisting, but they have more responsibilities than just directly assisting the dentist. They set up instruments and dental materials for each procedure. After the procedure, they disinfect the unit and sterilize the instruments which helps

to maintain a safe environment for the patients and staff. They help with patient education by giving basic oral hygiene instructions or post operative instructions. Most importantly to many people, dental assistants offer empathy and encouragement during difficult or stressful dental appointments.

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation dental clinics employ a total of eighteen dental assistants. Of those eighteen, eleven are Creek citizens. The dentists and staff of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation dental clinics want to thank our dental assistants for the support they offer to us and to our patients.



Pictured above are the dental assistants from Sapulpa Clinic (left to right): Trina Watashe, Alicia Lowe and not pictured are Jackie Buckley and Renee' Leslie.



Pictured above are the dental assistants from Eufaula Clinic (left to right): Dara Wilbourn and Freda Warren.



Pictured above are the dental assistants from Okmulgee (left to right, top row): Kristi Erby, Melissa Williams, Traci Campbell; (bottom row left to right): Alison Scott, Judy Proctor, and Janet Cargil.



Pictured above are the dental assistants from Koweta Clinic (left to right) standing: Michelle Glenn, Mindy Blair, Cindy Keeling; sitting: Joni Cantrell, Brittany LeMaster, Rachel Garvin (Creek); Not pictured: Jackie Grayson (Creek) Devonna Rodriguez.

National Diabetes Alert Day: Are you at risk?

by Sherry O'Mara  
Okmulgee Indian Health Clinic

OKMULGEE — Almost 21 million people in the United States have diabetes, or 7 percent of the population! In Muscogee (Creek) Nation Health System's patient population, 11.7 percent have diabetes. In MC-NHS patients over 40 years, 39 percent had diabetes in 2003.

Early detection of diabetes is known to reduce complication risks. While an estimated 14.6 million have been diagnosed, unfortunately, 6.2 million people (or nearly one-third) are unaware they have this disease.

Because diabetes is increasing by large numbers yearly, March 24, 2009 has been designated as Diabetes Alert Day by the American Diabetes Association. Participating Creek Nation health clinics will sponsor informational booths in the clinic waiting area. Stop by and pick up information about the effects of diabetes and how to control it. Diabetes program staff will be available to answer questions and hand out brochures with valuable information. If you are unable to reach one of these booths, please take the diabetes risk test printed here.

Are you at Risk? Take this test. Know your score. Find out if you are

at risk for having diabetes now. Write in the points next to each statement that is true for you. If a statement is not true, put a zero. Then add your total score. Remember, one-third of the people who have diabetes don't know it. The earlier diabetes is detected, the easier it is to control.

Diabetes Risk Test

1. I am a woman who has had a baby weighing more than 9 pounds at birth.  
Yes 1\_\_\_\_
  2. I have a sister or brother with diabetes.  
Yes 1\_\_\_\_
  3. I have a parent with diabetes.  
Yes 1\_\_\_\_
  4. My weight is equal to or above that listed on the chart to the right.  
Yes 5\_\_\_\_
  5. I am between 45 and 65 years of age and get little or no exercise.  
Yes 5\_\_\_\_
  6. I am 65 years old or older  
Yes 9\_\_\_\_
  - TOTAL \_\_\_\_\_
- If you totaled 3-9 points—  
You are probably at low risk for

having diabetes now. But don't just forget about it, especially if you are American Indian. You may be at higher risk in the future.

Scoring 10 or more points—

You are at greater risk for having diabetes. Only your health care provider can determine if you have diabetes. At your next office visit find out for sure.

At Risk Weight Chart	
Height	Weight
4'11"	133
5'0"	138
5'1"	143
5'2"	147
5'3"	152
5'4"	157
5'5"	162
5'6"	167
5'7"	172
5'8"	177
5'9"	182
5'10"	188
5'11"	193
6'0"	199
6'1"	204
6'2"	210
6'3"	216
6'4"	221

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qcs-okc.com

**Miami**  
918-542-1786  
quapawcounselingservices.com



PROGRAMS/NOTICES

# Native Youth Summit and Rock and Jam Day set for March 25

by Susan Arkeketa  
Indian Youth and Family Alliance

NORMAN — Indian youth activities and demonstrations are planned for the Indian Youth and Family Summit scheduled for March 25 and 26, 2009 at the OCCE Forum on the University of Oklahoma campus.

On March 25, 2009 the whole day will be devoted to youth empowerment through workshops and speakers focused on youth and family issues. Youth councils, counselors, parents, program administrators, educators, and students are encouraged to present workshops or information

on their own programs that empower youth and families.

The Summit is hosted by the Indian Youth and Family Alliance and the University of Oklahoma Native American Studies Department. The Indian Youth and Family Alliance is composed of individuals and organizations who work to promote and support Native youth and families in healthy peer, family, community and tribal relations.

Summit is hosted by the University of Oklahoma Native American Studies Department and the Indian Youth and Family Alliance. The Indian Youth

and Family Alliance is composed of individuals and organizations who want to make a difference in American Indian communities.

Planning committee members include: Susan Arkeketa, Jerry Bread, Veronica Pipestem, Cherrah Quiett and Dana Tiger.

Anyone who wants to volunteer with the Summit is more than welcome and if you are interested in joining the planning committee or want to present a workshop, please e-mail Susan Arkeketa for workshop information at sarkeketa@cs.com.

# Creek Council House Museum hosts “Okmulgee” art exhibit through April 30

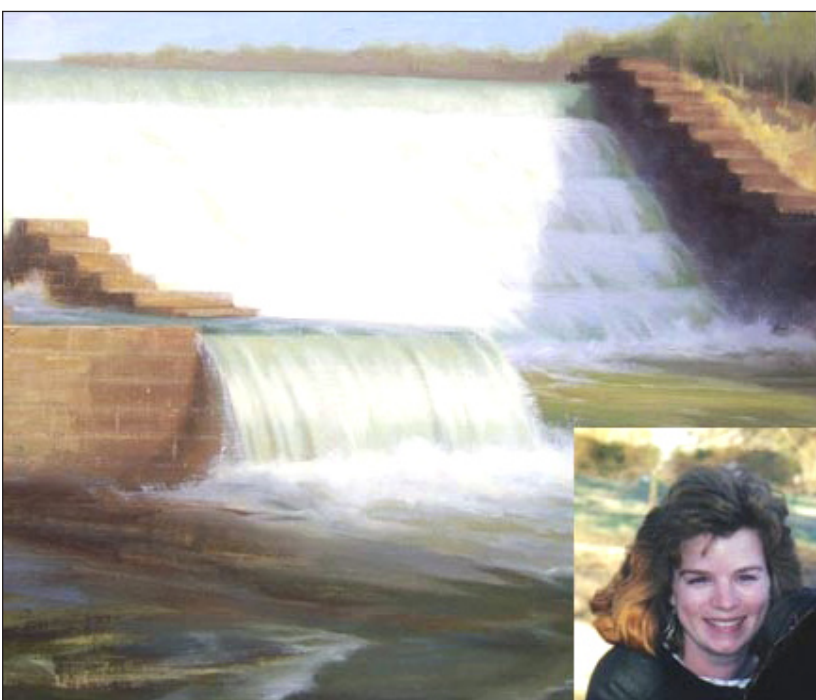
Media Release  
Creek Council House

OKMULGEE — The Creek Council House Museum is proud to present *Our Town: Our Land, Our People*, an exhibit conceptualized and created by Okmulgee artist Anne Spoon. This exhibit features 27 original oil paintings that explore and celebrate the people and places of our town, Okmulgee.

Her passion is evident in every brush stroke. Whether it is a landscape or portrait people are drawn into her work and become a part of her vision.

Anne says, “I love to paint, anyone who knows me can testify, I am passionate about it. For me painting is a spiritual, meditative and emotional experience. I love the creamy feel of mixing oil paint on the palette, the beautiful color combinations, and all of the possibilities of a blank canvas. It is really the only thing I have ever wanted to do.”

David Anderson, Executive Director of the Creek Council House Museum stated, “This is one of the most exciting exhibits that the museum has ever brought to Okmulgee. Anne has worked eighteen months on this project and she has captured the heart and soul of our community.”



Photograph courtesy of Creek Council House Museum

Pictured above is a painting of an iconic area near Okmulgee Lake done by artist Anne Spoon (right corner) whose work will be featured at the Creek Council House Museum in April.

He further stated “We are very honored that Anne has donated her portrait of original allottee Martha Berryhill to the museum.”

The exhibit will be open to the public from now until April 30 during museum hours, Tuesday – Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The museum

is open free to the public.

The museum is appreciative that this exhibit is sponsored in part by the Oklahoma Arts Council and the National Endowment for the Arts. For more information please contact the Creek Council House Museum at (918) 756-2324.

# Social Services offers assistance through March

by Julie Ziriaux  
MCN Social Services Manager

OKMULGEE —The Social Services Department continues to offer the Tribal Energy program for heating assistance. We will continue to take applications through March 31, 2009, or until the funds are exhausted.

Tribal Energy is available for elders (55 and older) or those receiving disability benefits through the Social Security Administration.

To apply for services, please choose one of the following options:

Applicants may choose to apply:

1) IN PERSON - No appointment is necessary and clients will be seen on a first-come, first-served basis. Office hours are 8:00 am – 4:00 pm. We are now located at 2971 N. Wood Drive, just north of Housing.

2) BY MAIL – Please mail all documents to: MCN Social Services, Attn: LIHEAP or Tribal Energy, PO

Box 580, Okmulgee, OK 74447.

3) BY FAX – Please fax all documents to 918-759-9988 and include a cover sheet addressed to LIHEAP or Tribal Energy.

4) IN YOUR COMMUNITY – Please bring all your documents to the field site. A Social Services Caseworker is available every month in chartered communities between 9:30 and 11a.m., on specified days (see field schedule below for specific days).

Those who wish to apply should provide:

- 1) Tribal cards and Social Security cards for everyone in the household
- 2) Gas bill OR Propane vendor OR Wood vendor (Electric bill only if you are total electric. You may be asked to verify this.)
- 3) Copies of all income sources
- 4) Phone number (in case we

need to contact you)

5) Authorization for Social Services to sign the application (if mailing or faxing)

6) Non-Duplication statement: Statement detailing any assistance received in the past 12 months from any federal, state, tribe, community, and/or church agency or the like with utilities, and/or deposits.

7) Additional documentation may be required

Applicants should keep paying their bill until they receive an approval letter. Please allow at least 45 days for processing.

We are currently out of LIHEAP funds but will resume applications in the summer for electric. Please contact Social Services at (918) 759-2334 if you need additional information. The toll-free number is 1-800-482-1979 ext. 7995.

# VASO seeks assistance with KIA project

by Josh Slane  
MNN Reporter

OKMULGEE — The Veterans Affairs Services Office is in the process of creating a memorial to all of the Muscogee soldiers who have been Killed In Action. If you know of someone who was Killed In Action, please submit their name, verification of citizenship, Killed In Action verification, birth date, service branch, and Killed In Action date to the veteran affairs office.

Also, the Veterans Affairs office is currently looking for birthdays and KIA

dates for the following soldiers: Perryman, Washington L; Berryhill, Charlie; Frank, Alfred N.; Hardridge,

Alex; Knight, Ramsey;

McIntosh, Nathan-

iel; Sarty, William

W.; Sulphur, James;

Watashe, Johnnie;

Wesley, Anderson

C.; Tarpalechee,

Yarme; Cheek, Ben;

and Moore, Kelly R.

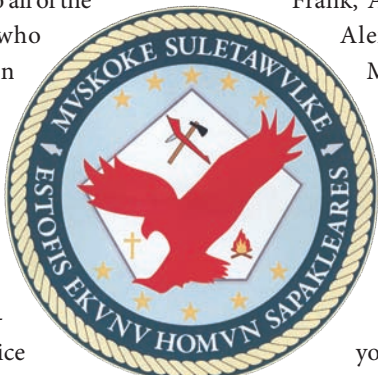
If you know the birthday

or KIA dates for any of these

soldiers, please contact Shawn

Taryole at (918) 732-7745 or e-mail

him at staryole@muscogeenation-nsn.gov.



# Partnership Board gearing up for 2009 Spring Celebration

Media Release  
MCN Partnership Board

OKMULGEE — The MCN Community Partnership Board is planning to host the 7th Annual Spring Celebration on March 20th, 2009 at the complex.

This is a one-day event to bring youth and families together for fellowship and to provide an opportunity for all to learn of the services available through the tribe. This event has about

600 visitors each year.

This year, the MCN Community Partnership Board is in need of volunteers. There will be different activities for all age groups: from games, to inflatables to basketball tournaments. If you would be interested in helping out with this fun-filled activity you can contact Janice Hanun or Neenah Emarthle at (918) 732-7968.

# Creek Nation CASA announces independent study training for volunteers

Media Release  
Court Appointed Special Advocates

OKMULGEE — The Creek Nation CASA program will hold tribal specific volunteer training utilizing the new Independent Study Edition.

The new program allows volunteers to train from home with weekly phone visits from the CASA supervisor to answer any questions that may arise.

The Court Appointed Special Advocate Association trains community volunteers to speak up for tribal children that are in the court system as a result of abuse and/or neglect. Tribal court volunteers are assigned one child or sibling group. The volunteers work with counselors, social workers and CASA staff to make sure the children's needs are being met.

Creek Nation CASA operates in the Muscogee (Creek) Nation District Court and currently has 17 tribal court

volunteers advocating for 33 children.

“CASA volunteers give of themselves to ensure that tribal children are placed in safe, permanent and loving homes,” stated CASA Program Manager Kim Deer.

It doesn't take any special qualification to be a CASA volunteer; the only requirement is to complete CASA training. CASA training topics include child abuse and neglect, domestic violence, drugs, child development, ICWA laws and many other interesting topics. It is a wonderful opportunity to get involved and make an impact on the community.

For more information about the Creek Nation CASA Program, please call Kim Deer at (918) 756-2549 or by e-mail at casaokm5@sbcglobal.net.

# Hanna Indian Community now hiring farmers for summer season

by Rebecca Landsberry  
MNN Editor

HANNA — Muscogee (Creek) Nation Community Research and Development will host a job fair on Fri., March 27, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., at the Hanna Indian Community Center for those interested in working for the Hanna Farm Project's Spring/Summer 2009 season.

Creek and Native American preference will be given and work will focus

on various phases of planting, harvesting, etc., at the farm.

Applicants should bring Creek citizen card and/or CDIB card and an additional form of ID. Employees will be hired for contract labor once the contracts are approved by Chief Ellis. For more information, contact Steve Landsberry at (918) 732-7962.

# Deadline for Summer Youth applications set for March 27

Media Release  
MCN Employment and Training

OKMULGEE — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Summer Youth Employment Program is currently underway. The program will be accepting applications for employment over the telephone only, from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., Mon., through Fri.

Applicants must be a member of any federally recognized tribe, be between the ages of 16 and 21 and live within the jurisdictional boundaries

of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation.

The last day to call and apply will be Fri., March 27 by 5 p.m. The deadline to submit an application to the Summer Youth Office will be Fri., April 3, 2009.

To apply, please call (800) 482 - 1979 exts. 7775 or 7776, or call the program directly at (918) 732 - 7775 or (918) 732 - 7776.

# Free showing of Indian boarding school documentary

by Jackson Barnett  
MCN Senior Services

OKMULGEE — Senior Services announces a special showing of the award-winning documentary by Rich Heape Films, “Our Spirits don't speak English, Indian Boarding School.”

The showing will be Thurs. March

12, at the Okmulgee Indian Community Center located at 2701 N. Miami. Senior Services will provide pizza and soft drinks and the movie will start at 7 p.m. For more information contact Jackson Barnett at (918) 732 - 7723.

## MCN Social Services and Food Distribution Field Schedule

Coweta	Community Center 9:30 - 11 a.m.	2nd Tuesday of the Month
Glenpool	Community Center 9:30 - 11 a.m.	2nd Wednesday of the Month
Bristow	Community Center 9:30 - 11 a.m.	2nd Thursday of the Month
Eufaula	Community Center 9:30 - 11 a.m.	3rd Tuesday of the Month
Sapulpa	Community Center 9:30 - 11 a.m.	3rd Wednesday of the Month
Checotah	Community Center 9:30 - 11 a.m.	3rd Thursday of the Month
Weleetka	Community Center 9:30 - 11 a.m.	4th Tuesday of the Month
Okemah	Community Center 9:30 - 11 a.m.	4th Wednesday of the Month
Holdenville	Community Center 9:30 - 11 a.m.	4th Thursday of the Month



EDUCATION

Native scholarship opportunities

American Indian Journalism Institute

The Freedom Forum is accepting applications until March 1 for the 9th American Indian Journalism Institute summer session, the premier journalism training, scholarship and internship program for Native American college students, June 5-19, 2009.

Students attend AIJI for free and receive other financial assistance. Applications are welcome from any Native American college student preparing to become a journalist. In its first eight years, about 165 students completed the program. Instructions and application forms are available at FreedomForum.org or by emailing a request to jharris@freedomforum.org.

AIJI students will be eligible for college credit by taking a multimedia journalism course taught at the Freedom Forum's Al Neuharth Media Center, on the University of South Dakota's Vermillion campus.

AIJI graduates compete to be hired for six-week paid internships as reporters, copy editors, photographers and multimedia journalists in daily newsrooms and with The Associated Press beginning about July 1.

The Freedom Forum administers and funds AIJI, including tuition, fees, books, room and board. To be eligible for AIJI, Native students must have completed at least one year of college. Applications for the program will be accepted from new participants and from returning AIJI students who want more training.

Program graduates will earn three hours of college credit from the University of South Dakota that students may transfer to their current school.

Students must be able to provide their own transportation to and from Vermillion, S.D., and must attend the full program beginning Friday, June 5, and ending Friday afternoon, June 19. Each student will have a single room in a dormitory. Meals will be provided on campus. AIJI forbids the use of alcohol, other intoxicants and illegal drugs at any time during the program. Violators will be dismissed from the institute.

The American Indian Journalism Institute is part of the Freedom Forum Diversity Institute's commitment to increase employment diversity in daily newsrooms.

"Having even one Native American working in a newsroom makes the organization more aware of American Indians in its community, and more sensitive and intelligent in reporting stories about them," Marsh said. "American Indians are by far the most underrepresented people of color in the news media, and this often results in stereotypical and erroneous coverage of Indian issues and Indian people."

AIJI also offers a semester-long Visiting Scholars Program at the University of South Dakota every fall and spring. Students are mentored by a journalist in residence and take a full load of college courses in journalism and related subjects. The program was created for students from schools that don't offer journalism courses. Fellowships are available to visiting scholars to cover the cost of tuition, fees, room and board.

The Freedom Forum, based in Washington, D.C., is a nonpartisan foundation dedicated to free press, free speech and free spirit for all people. The foundation focuses on three priorities: the Newseum, an interactive museum of news in Washington, D.C.; the First Amendment and newsroom diversity.

LEAD and the Native American Finance Officers Association Summer Business Institute

Do you want to learn about business as it is relevant to Tribes? Do you want to spend your summer at one of the top universities in the country?

For more than 28 years, the LEAD Program has provided business education to more than 7,500 minority high school students. In summer 2009, LEAD and the Native American Finance Officers Association (NAFOA) are partnering to provide a unique pro-

gram for Native American and Alaska Native students.

Native American and Alaska Native high school juniors will participate in a four week program to learn about business and finance as it is relevant to Native communities. Tribal leaders and Native people working in business and finance will introduce students to exciting career opportunities. Students will live on a university campus, participate in interactive classes and corporate site visits conducted by business school professors and corporate executives.

Students will also take classes in marketing, accounting, finance and economics. The curriculum also includes a day focused on college admissions. Students will participate in business and stock market competitions. On weekends, students will engage in a variety of extracurricular activities from theme park trips to sporting events.

Application deadline for Native students extended to March 15, 2009. It is to your benefit to submit your application as soon as possible before the deadline, as you will have a higher likelihood of being accepted into the program. Please do not let cost deter you from applying. Additional funding is available for Native American students.

To apply online visit: www.lead-program.org. Click on "LEAD Business." Native American and Alaska Native students in currently in their junior year of high school should apply.

For more information contact: Tashina Etter, Associate Director of Education and Programs, Native American Finance Officers Association by e-mail at: Tashina@nafoa.org or by phone at (303) 503-8772.

Society of American Indian Government Employees

The Society of American Indian Government Employees (SAIGE) is the only national Non-profit organization that advocates for American Indian and Alaska Native Government employees.

SAIGE will host their 6th annual training conference, "Many Nations, One Voice," June 1-5, 2009 in San Diego, Cali., at the Town and Country Hotel. As part of the Training Conference, SAIGE will also host the annual Native Youth Track.

This program is designed to provide Native American students an opportunity to learn about careers within the federal government, to participate in professional and personal development workshops and training, and to network with Native American professionals.

SAIGE encourages Native American youth to realize their potential to become leaders in their communities and schools, continue their education by obtaining a college degree, and ultimately, to seek a career in the government sector in one of the multitude of civil service professions.

SAIGE is offering a limited number of scholarships for Native students to attend the 2009 conference in San Diego, which will include conference fee, airfare, hotel accommodations and per diem for meals.

The Youth Track is open to Native Students between the ages of 18 and 25 who can demonstrate they are currently enrolled in good standing at an accredited high school, college or university. Students must be interested in gaining a professional degree and in the possibility of pursuing a career with the federal government. SAIGE invites American Indian/Alaska Native students to submit their application form, letter of reference, proof of school enrollment, and completed emergency medical information form for consideration to attend the conference. A short essay about their interest in government careers and information about themselves is also required. Completed application packets must be postmarked or electronic copies sent no later than April 1, 2009. To obtain a complete application visit our website at: www.saige.org under Youth Track. For more information, contact: JoAnn Brant, Youth Track Coordinator at (202) 564-0375 or by e-mail at Brant.joann@epa.gov.

Education Spotlight: Okemah Indian Community - a success story

by Thomas Givens  
Okemah Indian Community

OKEMAH — The Okemah Indian Community (OIC) finds success within its Youth and Education Departments. "May be on the cutting edge of a trend that promotes a partnership between school districts and local Native American students" stated Mr. Tom Conduct, Okemah Public School Superintendent.

Beginning with the 2008 – 2009 school year, the Okemah Indian Community and the Okemah Public School district developed a collaborative program to promote and support the overall academic performance of Native American students. OIC and the Okemah Public School district hired Mrs. Sandra Lambert as the Director of Native American Education/School and Community Liaison to oversee this newly developed program.

Mrs. Lambert sees students daily for academic intervention, grade reviews, and behavior concerns. Mrs. Lambert supervises the tutoring program, makes regular teacher contacts, parent contacts, and classroom visits.

The Okemah Indian Community funds a tutoring program before and after school at the high school. OIC also funds an after school tutoring program at the middle school. OIC pays six (6) certified teachers for these programs. The tutoring programs began in mid-August and have served approximately thirty-five (35) high school students and thirty-eight (38) middle school students. The grades of these students have improved and one hundred eleven (111) Native American students were named to the Principal's and Superintendent's honor rolls. This accomplishment marks approximately 33percent of the enrolled Creek students.

Okemah Public Schools Superintendent, Mr. Tom Conduct said, "This has been a very successful partnership between the Okemah Indian Community and the School District. I believe our Native American students are benefiting



Photo courtesy of Mike Dunson

The OIC recently donated \$1300.00 for equipment for the 2009 Okemah Panther High School Baseball Team. Accepting the check is the Head Baseball Coach David Dunlap. Presenting for the OIC is chariman Mike Dunson and C.E.O. Famous Marshal.

activities and events. The young people that have actively participated in the Youth Council have gone on to attend college and universities and become outstanding citizens.

One notable accomplishment of the Youth Council is the establishment of the Adopt-A-Highway Program. An Oklahoma Department of Highway representative said they believed the Okemah Indian Youth Council was the only youth organization in the State that has adopted a highway.

The Youth Council slogan is "Our Train is Going Somewhere," it never backs up and never stops. It means you meet their pace.

The Youth Department contributes and provides for many Community youth to participate in various athletic camps and activities. The Youth annually participate in the Native Vision Sports and Leadership Camp and in order for the Youth to participate in school sports activities they must have passing grades.

Therefore, both departments feel they have indirectly contributed to the success of the Okemah High School

membership in many economic and social areas because of the current state of the national economy. The departments in which it is felt have excellet the Education and Youth.

Other OIC Education Department programs include:

The Education Incentive Award Program, Youth Music Instrument Loan Program, Scholarship Program, Summer School Assistance, Band Music Instructions and Student Graduation Assistant.

The Education Incentive Award Program honors eligible students for academic excellence and achievement. At the end of the 2008 – 2009 first semester, there were seventy-nine (79) students that qualified for this award.

The Youth Music Instrument Loan Program assists Creek students that desire to play in the school band but are unable to afford to purchase or rent musical instruments. For School Year 2008 – 2009, there are eight (8) students currently on this program and playing in the high school band.

The OIC Scholarship program is awarded to graduating high school seniors for academic excellence and that plan to attend an institution of higher education. This year, two (2) scholarship awards were presented to two students attending college.

A Summer School Assistance program was established in case a high school student was deficient in an academic area necessary to graduate. Thus far, none has applied.

Plans are formulating to provide musical instrument instructions to teenage youth that may be interested in playing instruments i.e., guitar, drums, and keyboard.

OIC has established a graduation assistance program for high school graduating seniors that are Creek enrolled and reside within OIC boundaries. The graduation assistance program helps to defray expenses that many cannot afford, i.e. caps & gowns, announcements and pictures. This year there are fourteen (14) graduating seniors attending both Okemah and Mason High Schools.

The Okemah Indian Community Education Department sponsored a financial aid workshop for Native American juniors and seniors with approximately thirty-five (35) parents and students in attendance. It has also provided two hundred forty-four (244) students with school supplies.

The OIC Education Department plans to have a high school senior banquet to show its appreciation for a job well done. Future plans for the Department to possibly include Creek Language classes in the Okemah Public School system.



Photo courtesy of Mike Dunson

The Okemah Indian Community recently received \$500 for the Okemah Regional Tournament Program. Accepting the check is Athletic Director/Principal Tom Howell. Presenting for OIC is Chairman Mike Dunson and CEO Famous Marshall

from this program. We may be on the cutting edge of a trend that promotes a partnership between school districts and local Native American students."

In direct correlation with the Education Department is the Youth Department. The Youth Department is supervised by Ms. Sunnie Marshall, Youth Coordinator. The Youth Department goes hand in hand with the Education Department with the establishment of its Youth Council. The Okemah Indian Community Youth Council is a model government that parallels with the Muscogee (Creek) National Council and teaches young Creek citizens parliamentary procedures. The Youth Council establishes goals and objectives and makes budgetary decisions to plan

boys' basketball team which is comprised of 33 percent Native Americans and ranked #1 in the State in Class 3A.

OIC is comprised of four (4) departments which offer several programs and services. The Executive Office, under the leadership of the OIC Board of Directors, manages all departments, programs, and services, including a Smoke Shop enterprise. The Executive Office is staffed by the CEO Famous Marshall, SEO Thomas Givens, and AO Vicky McGee.

The OIC departments include: Education Services, Youth Services, Social Services, and Senior & Disabled Citizens Services.

The OIC Executive Office leadership saw a definite need to assist its

Air traffic control school now available through Tulsa Community College

Media Release  
MCN Employment & Training

OKMULGEE — A two-year air traffic control school program will be offered through Tulsa Community College.

Classes will begin June 2009 and again in Fall 2009. Applicants must be ages 27 years and younger, preferably.

Any Creek citizen or Native American in the Nation's service area that is accepted into the program may contact the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Employment and Training Program for information regarding assistance with this program.

For more information on the air

traffic school, inquiries may be directed to Ben Bancroft at (918) 828-4041 ext. 4041.

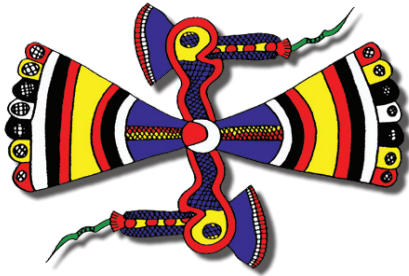
For more information on the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Employment and Training Program, please contact Melody McPerryman at (918) 732 - 7779.



CMN's Harjo accepts leadership award



SPOTLIGHT - B5



Stars come out for the Madness in March

SPORTS - B7



FEATURES

Creek Festival takes shape

- Market will feature Mvskoke-grown produce



In 2008, the Creek Festival featured home-grown potatoes and other produce, which were very popular. This year, the planning committee decided to make it an annual feature of the festival attractions.

ADDING SOME SPICE

The 2009 Muskegee (Creek) Nation Festival will include a Farmers Market. Interested parties may sell their home-grown produce all days of the festival to contact the office of Tourism & Recreation to secure a space at no cost. All chartered Creek communities are encouraged to inform farmers in their areas and secure a space for them. The 35th Annual Muskegee (Creek) Nation Festival will be held June 18-21, 2009. For more information, contact Brian On-The-Hill at Tourism & Recreation at (918) 732-7993.

T&R/Brian On-The-Hill

Wetumka vision becoming reality

- Satellite offices established in rural community

by Thompson Gouge  
Public Relations Representative

WETUMKA — The Muskegee (Creek) Nation is making progress in the southern part of Creek Nation Territory.

As promised by Principal Chief A.D. Ellis, the idea of reaching citizens in the southern portion of the tribe is becoming a reality. A satellite office for tribal services is being established in the old hospital in Wetumka, Okla.

Due to the increase of fuel costs and the economy, this tribal service office will bring less stress to all Creek citizens living in that area. Offices housed at Wetumka will include Housing Division, Social Services, Human Development, National Council and the Lighthouse Police Department. "Eventually we would like to see other departments bring their services to this area as well," said Thomasene Osborn, Development Specialist for the Creek Nation Housing Authority. The remodeling of this facility was performed by the Force Accounts crew with the Muskegee (Creek) Nation housing and the Structural Insulated Panel Plant Crew. "A satellite office has always been a dream of mine," states Mrs. Osborn.

When Bobby Leftwich, was hired to work in the SIP plant, he was asked how it felt to have job in his home town, "There are not that many jobs here and



Pictured above is the Wetumka Structural Insulated Panel Crew and Wetumka Satellite Office Crew. (Front L-R): Asi Yahola and Thomasene Osborn, (Back L-R) Robert Long, Bobby Leftwich, Spencer Underwood, Jeremiah Hobiah and Albert Poole. Not pictured are Jerry Deere and Lumber Proctor.

going out of town would be hard if you didn't have a vehicle and if you were to get on a pipeline crew, it may take you out of state by weeks or months at a time." The Muskegee (Creek) Nation Housing Division also has plans to build a 13,000 square foot, Structural Insulated Panel (SIP) plant on east Highway 9 in Wetumka. The plant will be located on tribally-owned land and will exclusively manufacture SIPs, which will be used to

construct new homes for the Housing Division Home Ownership programs. On-site crews will assemble the homes; however, building services such as electricity, plumbing and foundation will be contracted out, providing the area with opportunity for jobs and economic growth. While waiting on the structures and the development of the site, the SIP crew was able to help remodel the Wetumka Service offices.

Mvskoke Women's Leadership Initiative forming

by Cherrah Quiett  
MCN National Council Representative

OKMULGEE — Attention ALL Mvskoke Women! Do you want to share your knowledge or learn from other great women leaders?

Are you ready to be a part of getting back to our maternal roots? If yes to any of these questions, please join us in the first brainstorming meeting of the Mvskoke Women's Leadership Initiative.

The meeting will be held Sat., March 14 from 2-4 p.m., at the Mound Building, in the National Council Chambers. All ages are welcome and light refreshments will be served.

For more information please contact Cherrah Quiett at (918) 520-9161 or at tulsacreek@aol.com.



The first brainstorming session of the Mvskoke Women's Leadership Initiative will be March 14.

- Cherrah Quiett  
MCN National Council

MFSI hosts "Return to Your Roots" food symposium

Media Release  
Mvskoke Food Sovereignty Initiative

OKMULGEE — The MFSI will be hosting an educational event, the first annual "Return to Your Roots Food Sovereignty Symposium." The symposium is scheduled for March 20 and 21, 2009, at the Capital Complex Mound Bldg. The participants will be exposed to modern Muskegee culture as the expert presenters enlighten attendees with their knowledge.

An impressive group of experts in many aspects of the food system including the health benefits of traditional foods, Muskegee agriculture heritage, growing and cooking

traditional foods and resources will be available from farmers in the area. Also scheduled are presentations from other tribes and several Muskegee Communities about their agricultural projects. A traditional meal prepared by Muskegee citizens will be provided on Sat. For more information contact Ben Yahola or Vicky Karhu at (918) 756-5915 by e-mail: at info@mvskekefood.org., or visit www.mvskekefood.org.

Last call for Mvskoke artists to participate

by Brian On-The-Hill  
MCN Tourism and Recreation

OKMULGEE — March 30 will be the last day to submit booth applications for arts and crafts to the Tourism and Recreation Department. If you or someone you know is an artist or craftsman, please consider

purchasing a 15'x20' booth space at the Muskegee (Creek) Nation Festival in June 2009. All registered Creek citizens may rent a 15'x20' booth space for \$60, upon proof of citizenship. All other Native Americans (non-Creek citizens)

will be charged \$80 (must present valid CDIB card), Non-Natives will pay \$125 and a \$150 fee will be charged for commercial vendors. For more information, contact Brian On-The-Hill at (918) 732-7993.

HISTORY/CULTURE B2

Order setting hearing on Petitioners Request for Preliminary Injunction



RELIGION B3

Faith Based news and activities calendar for March and April



LIFESTYLES B4

Mekko Tyner



SPOTLIGHT B5

Muskegee (Creek) citizens at the Tulsa Indian Art Festival



OBITUARIES B6

Earl Sands



AD B8

Van Zandt Ad





HISTORY/CULTURE

Juried Art Competition to feature photography category

by Ruth Bible  
MNN Cultural Reporter

OKMULGEE — The 2009 Muscogee Nation Festival and the Creek Council House Museum are calling all Native American artists for the 2009 Juried Art Competition. The juried art competition show will be exhibited at the museum from June 16 – 20. This year there will be two categories of competition including Painting/Graphic Arts and Photography.

“It will be an exciting show this year. For the first time we will have a photography category. We have also increased the number of prizes and

the amount of prize money that will be awarded with one talented artist receiving the \$1,000 Best of Show Award,” stated museum curator Ted Isham.

In addition to the art competition, Native American artists will be able to set up and sell their work on the museum lawn. There will be no charge for booth space but vendors must pre-register with the museum.

Entry packets are available now. For further information and to request a juried art competition packet or a vendor on the lawn packet, please contact the museum at (918)-756-2324.

Tulsa Public Library to feature Native storytelling March 7

Submitted by Teresa Runnels  
American Indian Resource Center of Tulsa

TULSA — Tulsa Public Library will be hosting cultural afternoon on Sat., March 7 at the Central Library, Fourth Street and Denver Avenue from 11:15 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Mekko David Proctor from the Tallahassee Wykokaye Ceremonial Ground will make four calls in the Mvskoke language to announce to participants to begin getting ready for the festival.

Oral Tradition of Storytelling will be from 11:30 a.m.-12:10 p.m. At the Plaza Room, Second Floor, Alice Whitecloud, coordinator for All Nations Indian Youth will present tribal stories. Flute Music/Storytelling will be from 11:30 a.m.-12:10

p.m., at the tiled area, second floor. Choo-gie Kingfisher will present flute music and storytelling of traditional Cherokee myths and legends.

American Indian Storytelling will be held from 1 p.m.-1:40 p.m., at the tiled area, Second Floor. Through storytelling, Katie Roubidoux, a Tulsa Zoo docent, will help kids become more aware of the natural world.

For more information, contact Teresa Runnels at AIRC by phone (918) 596-7398, e-mail: trunnel@tulsalibrary.org or by visiting Tulsa Library’s web site: http://www.tulsalibrary.org/airc.

Benefit Bingo

by Ruth Bible  
MNN Cultural Reporter

OKMULGEE — A Benefit Bingo will be held on Sat., March 7 at the Okmulgee Indian Community with food sale beginning at 11 a.m. Mini, regular and special bingo will begin at 1 p.m.

Proceeds will go toward the funeral and medical expenses for Wilbur “Chebon” Gouge and Wallace Deo. Donations will be accepted.

For more information, please contact Nancy Deere at (918) 756-4272 or at (918) 224-6954 after 5:30 p.m.

Communities

Continued from A1

1.00 FINDINGS:

1.01 Pursuant to the Constitution of the Nation, as recognized by the Supreme Court of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, the Office of the Principal Chief has authority to oversee the Executive Branch of the Nation, including but not limited to general oversight of the chartered communities and specifically: Bristow, Checotah, Duck Creek, Eufaula, Holdenville and Okemah Indian Communities as well as the Nation’s real property.

1.02 Pursuant to Title 11, §§ 1-101 et seq. of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Code Annotated, the Principal Chief is given authority over the chartered communities, pursuant to his inherent authority as head of the Executive Branch of the Nation, the Principal Chief has entered into a Facility Use Agreement with the Bristow, Checotah, Duck Creek, Eufaula, Holdenville and Okemah Muscogee Creek Indian Communities with regard to the conduct of gaming and related activities at the Nation’s facility.

1.03 Pursuant to the terms and conditions of the: Bristow, Checotah, Duck Creek, Eufaula, Holdenville and Okemah Creek Indian Communities Facility Use Agreement, the term of said agreement will expire on February 28, 2009.

1.04 In that all citizens of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation are entitled to participate in the benefits and revenues of the Nation, the Principal Chief believes that it is in the best interests of the citizens of the Nation that all Indian Gaming Communities facilities Use Agreement not be renewed in order that the revenues associated with the Nation’s gaming facility located within the Indian Gaming Communities benefits all citizens of the Nation, including without limitation the members of the Indian Gaming Communities.

1.05 In accordance with the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Code Annotated, Title 11, § 4-302 and his general authority as head of the Executive Branch of the Nation, the Principal Chief retains the right of re-entry upon the expiration of the term of the Checotah Muscogee Creek Indian Community Facilities Use Agreement.

2.00 AUTHORITY/ACTION:

2.01 As of the Effective Date as defined in Section 3.01 below and for the benefit of all of the citizens of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, the Principal Chief hereby assumes general oversight authority over the Nation’s real property within the Indian Gaming Communities, subject to the provisions of Section 2.02 below, and including without limitation the ability, as necessary to make appointments of the directors, officers, employees and agents of the Nation’s gaming facility within the Indian Gaming Communities. Without limiting the foregoing, the Controller (1) is hereby authorized to take possession, maintain and manage all financial resources, funds assets, records, contracts, bank accounts, bank records and all other documents related to the gaming enterprise and (2) shall have signature authority over all gaming revenues, contracts and bank accounts related to the operation of the gaming enterprise; and (3) is hereby authorized to use gaming funds for any audits, including forensic audits, deemed necessary by the Controller.

2.01 All General Managers will be acting Interim General Managers of the gaming facility within the Indian Gaming Communities and shall be in actual control of the day-to-day operations of the gaming facility, including without limitation employment issues.

2.03 As of the Effective Date, the Board of the Indian Gaming Communities shall have no authority over any gaming enterprises, funds, financial resources, assets, record, contracts, bank accounts, bank records and any other documents of any kind relating to the operation of the gaming facilities.

2.04 The Principal Chief and/or his designee(s) shall have the authority take any and all actions the Principal Chief deems necessary and proper to carry out the terms and conditions of the foregoing and to ensure the continued effective operation of the Nation’s gaming facility within the Indian Gaming Communities in the best interests of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation.

3.00 EFFECTIVE DATE:

3.01 This Executive Order shall become effective as of 12:00 a.m. (midnight), Sunday, March 1, 2009.

Legal Notices (con’t on B6)

DISTRICT COURT OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION (OKMULGEE DISTRICT) DISTRICT COURT FILED 2009 FEB 27 P 1:51

A.D. ELLIS, in his official capacity as Principal Chief of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Plaintiff,

v. BRISTOW MUSCOGEE INDIAN COMMUNITY, CHECOTAH MUSCOGEE CREEK INDIAN COMMUNITY, DUCK CREEK INDIAN COMMUNITY, EUFULA INDIAN COMMUNITY, HOLDENVILLE CREEK INDIAN COMMUNITY, and OKEMAH INDIAN COMMUNITY, chartered communities Of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Defendant.

Case No. CV2009-33

ORDER SETTING HEARING ON PETITIONER'S REQUEST FOR PRELIMINARY INJUNCTION

The above captioned case is hereby set for hearing on Plaintiff's Application for Preliminary Injunction on the 17 day of March, 2009 at 2:00 P.M. in the District Courtroom of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Mound Building, Capital Complex, Okmulgee, Oklahoma, 74447.

Dated February 27, 2009.

PATRICK E. MOORE District Judge

DISTRICT COURT OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION (OKMULGEE DISTRICT) DISTRICT COURT FILED 2009 FEB 27 P 1:33

A.D. ELLIS, in his official capacity as Principal Chief of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Plaintiff,

v. BRISTOW MUSCOGEE INDIAN COMMUNITY, CHECOTAH MUSCOGEE CREEK INDIAN COMMUNITY, DUCK CREEK INDIAN COMMUNITY, EUFULA INDIAN COMMUNITY, HOLDENVILLE CREEK INDIAN COMMUNITY, and OKEMAH INDIAN COMMUNITY, chartered communities Of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Defendant.

Case No. CV2009-33

PETITION

The Plaintiff, A.D. Ellis, in his official capacity as Principal Chief of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation ("Plaintiff") states:

A. JURISDICTIONAL FACTS

1. Plaintiff is the duly elected Principal Chief of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. Pursuant to Article V of the Constitution of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, all executive power and authority of the Nation is vested in the office of the Principal Chief.

2. Defendants are organized communities of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation which have been chartered pursuant to Title 11, Section 1 – 101 et seq. of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Code.

3. This Court has jurisdiction over the parties and subject matter of this action pursuant to Title 27, Section 1 – 102 of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Code.

4. Pursuant to Title 11, Section 4 – 301 of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Code, Plaintiff entered into Facility Use Agreements with each Defendant which provided for the lease of the Nation's lands for particular purposes, including gaming, by each Defendant community. As allowed by the Facility Use Agreements, each Defendant operated a gaming facility on the Nation's lands under the auspices of the Nation's authority to operate gaming facilities under the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act.

5. Each of those Facility Use Agreements terminated by their terms on September 30, 2008. However, each of those Facility Use Agreements was extended by agreement of Plaintiff and each Defendant through February 28, 2009. On March 1, 2009, all of the Facility Use Agreements between the Nation and each Defendant expired. As a result, the use and control of tribal facilities previously occupied by each Defendant reverted to the Nation as a matter of law.

6. On February 28, 2009, Plaintiff issued Executive Orders No. 09 – 04 through 09 – 09. Through those Executive Orders, the Principal Chief took the following actions:

A. The Principal Chief assumed to general oversight authority over each of the Defendant's gaming facilities;

B. Authorized the Controller to take control and management of all gaming finances and records;

C. Appointed managers of each gaming facility as needed;

D. Removed all authority from Defendants over any gaming enterprises, funds, financial resources, assets, records, contracts, bank accounts, bank records and any other documents of any kind relating to the operation of the community gaming facilities.

B. FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION - ACCOUNTING

7. Plaintiff is entitled to an accounting from each Defendant of all gaming revenues and expenses derived and expended from each gaming facility during the term of the respective Facility Use Agreements.

C. SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION - INJUNCTION

8. Plaintiff is entitled to a preliminary and permanent injunction as follows:

A. Enjoining and prohibiting Defendants from interference with the Plaintiff and his agents, employees and delegates in the execution and actions authorized by Executive Orders No. 09 – 04 through 09 – 09.

B. Enjoining and prohibiting Defendants from using, spending, dispersing or secreting any funds, accounts, or proceeds of gaming revenues pending the accounting and other orders of this Court requested herein. All

accrued gaming revenue held by Defendants should be escrowed and administered by Plaintiff or his designee.

C. Enjoining and prohibiting Defendants from altering, destroying or secreting all financial and community records of any kind regarding the operation of gaming facilities during the terms of the respective Facility Use Agreements.

D. DEMAND FOR RELIEF

Therefore, the Plaintiff, A.D. Ellis, in his official capacity as Principal Chief of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, demands the following relief:

A. An accounting of gaming revenues and expenses as described above;

B. A preliminary and permanent injunction as described above;

C. All other relief as may be just and proper.

ROD W. WIEMER, MCN Bar No. 111  
114 North Grand, Suite 200  
Okmulgee, Oklahoma 74447  
918-756-2200 Telephone  
918-756-3860 Facsimile

VERIFICATION

STATE OF OKLAHOMA }  
COUNTY OF OKMULGEE } JSS.

A.D. Ellis being of lawful age and sworn upon oath states that he is the Plaintiff in this case and he has read the foregoing Petition and the statements contained therein are true and correct.

Subscribed and sworn to before me on February 27, 2009 by A.D. Ellis.

Notary Public

My Commission Expires: Sept 11, 2010  
Number: 00000000000000000000

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2009

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June 18 - 21

Entries for the following must be submitted no later than Friday, May 29, 2009.

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Youth Basketball 3 on 3 ..... Chad Smith 405-487-8864

Golf Tournament ..... Celesta Johnson 800-299-9458

Horseshoes ..... Liz Holata 918-732-7614

Parade ..... Melinda Deerinwater 918-759-4172

Slow-Pitch Softball Tourn. .... George Roach 918-458-0577

Volleyball ..... Billie Harjochee 918-732-7960

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# Churches celebrate spring with wild onion dinners

By Rebecca Landsberry  
MNN Editor

OKMULGEE — Some of the most anticipated events of the spring include seeing the daffodils bloom, the grass turn a little greener and the breezes blowing a little warmer.

When March hits Oklahoma, however, many citizens only have eyes for wild onions. These traditional Creek delicacies are enjoyed in churches and communities throughout the boundaries of the Nation.

Dinners are scheduled throughout the months of March and April and usually feature other traditional must-have food items such as salt pork and grape dumplings.

Salt Creek United Methodist Church — March 7, 11- 3 p.m., \$10.00 for adults, \$5.00 for children. Dinner will be held at the Holdenville Indian Community Center and will be all-you-can-eat.

Big Cussetah Church — March 21, 11 a.m., to 3 p.m., \$8.00 adult and \$5.00 children (per plate). \$8.00 will also be charged for carry-out orders.

Concharty Methodist Church — March 28, 11 a.m., to 3 p.m. Adults will be \$8.00 and \$5.00 children (per plate). The church is located at 19040 Garfield

Road in Okmulgee. For more info call 918-366-8450.

Broken Arrow Indian United Methodist Church — March 28, from 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. The church is located at 20854 E. 141st in Broken Arrow and will be serving onions, beans, corn, meat, frybread beverages and desserts.

Springfield Methodist Church — April 4, from 10:30 a.m. – 5 p.m. Adults will be \$8.00 and children 12 and under will be \$4.00.

Directions are as follows: Exit I-40, Clearview Exit: Go North to stop sign, turn left traveling West one mile on Hwy. 62, come to the “Y,” turn left two miles and arrive at church.

I-40 traveling south: traveling south on Hwy. 27 for four miles. Turn left on dirt road with Springfield sign traveling East 5.5 miles to “Y,” turn left two miles and arrive at church.

Haikey Chapel UMC — March 14, 2009 from 11 a.m., to 3 p.m. Cost of adult dinner will be \$7.00, child’s dinner will be \$3.50. The church is located at 8515 E. 101st St., in Tulsa.

For more information, contact Rev. Jule Tecumseh at (918) 681-6175.

Nuyaka Indian Baptist Church —

March 21, beginning at 11a.m.. Cost of dinner will be \$7.00. For more information, contact Donnie at (918) 650 - 0412 or Lou at (918) 623 - 0001.

Tulsa Creek Indian Community — Sat., March 21 from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. The cost will be a donation and the menu will include wild onions, salt pork or ham, beans or hominy, corn, frybread, grape dumplings, dessert and tea (if wild onions cannot be purchased a traditional meal will be served).

As a courtesy to our Creek people, TCIC has invited The Creek Nation Citizenship Board to set up in the Conference room from 11 a.m. – 2 p.m., where they will be able to replace membership cards and take applications for new members.

The TCIC is located at 8611 S. Union Ave., in Tulsa. For more information, please contact TCIC at (918) 298 - 2464 to get information about requirements needed to receive their services.

If your church, organization or community will be hosting a wild onion dinner not listed here or would like to share a photo from your event, please contact the Communications Department at (918) 732-7636 to be included in the April edition of the *Muscogee Nation News*.

# UMC’s Native American Ministries Sunday set for April 26, 2009

Media Release  
United Methodist Church

OKLAHOMA CITY — April 26, 2008: Native American Ministries Sunday recognizes and supports the contributions of Native Americans to the church and society. The observance, approved by the 1988 General Conference, is one of six special church-wide Sunday offerings.

The funds collected will allow The United Methodist Church to partner with existing native ministries and create programs on behalf of Native Americans. Money collected also supports seminary scholarships for United Methodist Native Americans.

On Native American Ministries Sunday, United Methodists cultivate and support urban missions with Native Americans and fund scholarships for Native American seminarians. The annual conference retains 50 percent of the offering goes toward strengthening and developing Native American ministries. However, if no Native American

ministries exist in the conference, the entire offering is remitted to the General Council on Finance and Administration for Native American ministries in other areas.

The remaining 50 percent of the offering expands mission work with the Native American Urban Initiative and provides scholarships for Native Americans attending United Methodist and other approved schools of theology.

Is it easier to learn Native American traditions from a Native American or an Irish American? This is why the Native American Ministries Sunday offering is critical – to continue the traditions and nurture the gifts of Native Americans. Approximately 19,000 United Methodists identify themselves as Native American. About 225 United Methodist churches, fellowships, and ministries that relate to this population.

# Sometimes the underdog comes out on top

by Darren DeLaune  
MNN Contributor

OKMULGEE — In today’s world, we always have an underdog. Whether it is in sports, politics, or life, there will always be one. To some people who do not know what an underdog is (and no, it’s not the fictional superhero canine), an underdog is a team or a person who ends up being victorious despite all the odds against them.

An example in politics is John F. Kennedy’s defeat of Richard Nixon in the 1960 Presidential election. In the sports world, the 1980 U.S. Olympic Hockey Team beat the favored Russians by a score of 4-3. Historically, many people have been dubbed underdogs and Hollywood has portrayed this unique role in numerous films throughout the decades.

The 1983 film, “Hoosiers”, is a classic tale of redemption that features a volatile coach and a former star player-turned alcoholic who led a small-town basketball team on an improbable run to the Indiana high school championship game. “Rudy”, a movie based on one student’s dream to play football at Notre Dame, reveals an underdog’s passion to let nothing stop him from realizing his ambitions and eventually playing for the final seconds of a game in his senior year.

The 2007 box office hit, “300”, was a ferocious retelling of the ancient Battle of Thermopylae in which King Leonidas and 300 Spartans fought to the death against Xerxes and his massive Persian army. Facing impossible odds, their valor and sacrifice inspired all of Greece to unite against their Persian enemy.

Although the Spartans fiercely battled the Persians, they were eventually defeated by their overwhelming enemies.

While the army of 300 Spartans displayed incredible heroism, I would also like to discuss another group of 300 men. These men, with their faith

in the Lord, would ultimately go to battle and conquer a powerful army. These men, the Israelites, were led by a man whose name was Gideon. Gideon was an Israelite who was being held captive by the Midians. Out of fear, he and the rest of the Israelites cried out and prayed for someone to deliver them from their captors.

One day, the Lord (Hesaketv-mese) sent an angel (Hvlwe-este) to Gideon and delivered his instructions. Initially, Gideon was skeptical of this angel and asked him to prove his abilities. Gideon asked if the Lord could make the fleece that he set on the ground wet with dew and the ground all around it to be dry; the Lord successfully performed this task for Gideon. Gideon then asked him to make only the ground wet with dew and leave the fleece dry. Gideon was soon amazed and realized the Lord would be able to help him.

Gideon was going to war with the Midians with 22,000 soldiers. The Lord advised Gideon that there were too many soldiers and that his army would have to be reduced to only 300 men. With 300 soldiers and the Lord’s strength, Gideon was able to defeat the Midians in awe-inspiring combat.

These men, as underdogs, were able to go to war with a powerful army and not only defeat them, but chased them out of the country. A lot of people today think underdogs are weaker or smaller than their opposition. In most situations, underdogs have bigger hearts than the rivals they are going against.

During the next sporting event, election, or movie that spotlights the underdog, do not underestimate that person or team. Many times, the underdog will surprise his critics and overcome all doubt.

# FAITH-BASED NEWS & ACTIVITIES

## Indian taco sale

SEMINOLE — The Little River Mission will be having an Indian taco sale beginning at 11 a.m., at the Human Development Building on the complex of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation on Fri., April 3. Indian taco, pop and dessert will be included with a \$5.00 donation.

## NIBC Easter service

NUYAKA — Nuyaka Indian Baptist church will be having their Easter services on Sun., April 12 beginning at 10:30 a.m. After services, there will be dinner and an egg hunt. For more information, please contact Donnie at (918) 650 - 0412 or Lou at (918) 623 - 0001.

## Youth and young adult conference

OKLAHOMA CITY — The conference will be March 27 - 28, 2009 and held at Glorieta Baptist Church in Oklahoma City. Our theme is “Light” with the key verse of Ephesians 5:8, “For you were once darkness, but now [you are] light in the Lord. Walk as children of light.”

For more information contact: Kelli Webster @ fumby\_girl@hotmail.com.

## Indian Falls Creek introduces new ministry

SHAWNEE — A new IFC Special Ministries is coordinating a new effort to serve as a RESOURCE for Native American Churches; and SOURCE for volunteers to fill a need in their counties.

IFC SM provides possible resource for: Revivals, Crusades, and

Church partnerships as well as New Mentor program for new Ministers and Youth Pastors.

Look for more information on the IFC web site at <http://www.indian-falls creek.com/site/>, from IFC newsletters and through your Association DOM’s and special presentation in IFC Summer Retreat 2009, or contact: BO TIGER, IFC SM Coordinator, 2611 N. PARK ST SHAWNEE, OK 74804 or e-mail: [dwtiger2001@yahoo.com](mailto:dwtiger2001@yahoo.com).

## Oklahoma Baptist pastor-student survey

OKLAHOMA — Pastors we are asking that you take this short anonymous survey (three questions) regarding the working relationship between pastors and student ministers, provided at the following link: <http://www.bgco.org/5396>.

This survey will help the BGCO partner with Oklahoma Baptist churches to retain and reclaim the 70 percent of young adults who leave the church at age 18.

Thank you for your help. Brett Selby, Leadership Development Specialist at the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma. For more information, call (405) 942-3000, ext. 4400 or (405) 343-9192 or log on to [www.bgco.org/leadership](http://www.bgco.org/leadership).

## Celebrate Recovery group

DEL CITY — Hurts? Habits? Hang-ups? Addictions? Destiny Christian Center offers Celebrate Recovery each Thursday night beginning with a free dinner at 6 p.m. Large group with praise and worship begins at 7 p.m., and small groups [optional] start at 8 p.m., at Cross Talk Cafe at 9 p.m. [refreshments and fellowship].

Destiny is located at 3801 SE 29th

St., in Del City, Okla., [between Sunnylane and Bryant]. Celebrate Recovery is open to the public and held in the Activity Center next to the Gymnasium. Childcare is available.

For more information, contact Cheryl Anquoe - Parnacher at (405) 250-6931 or e-mail [Forgivn93@sbc-global.net](mailto:Forgivn93@sbc-global.net). For more about the CR program see this site: <http://www.celebrate-recovery.com/>.

## New Hope Fellowship hosts 2009 Youth Rally

WEWOKA — New Hope Fellowship Church will host the 2009 Youth Rally March 19-21.

Ministers will include Rev. Elison Bennett from Phoenix, Ariz., and Rev. Rick Manus from Tulsa. Music from New Creations, In His Gates, Visionary, Agopy, Trail of Tears, the Bennett Family, Steve Williams and New Child will be featured throughout the conference.

Nightly refreshments will be served after service and lunch will be provided on Sat., before the afternoon jam session. The church is located six and 3/4 miles north of Wewoka on Hwy. 56, or nine miles south from the Wewoka/Cromwell exit on I-40.

## Indian Falls Creek update

FALLS CREEK — Dates For Indian Falls Creek are set for July 27 - 31, 2009. We are seeking churches to be part of a statewide candy sell. Contact Victor Cope at 405-598-8720 or e-mail [ndnrev@aol.com](mailto:ndnrev@aol.com) for information concerning Indian Falls Creek 2009. If your church needs any help coming to camp please let us know ASAP.



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LIFESTYLES

BIRTHDAYS

*Elizabeth Rose Gallagher*  
ALTUS — Elizabeth Rose Gallagher celebrated her 10th birthday on Feb. 15 with a ‘Prairie Party Cookout’ with family and friends.  
Parents are David Glenn and Katherine Rose Gallagher.  
She has one sibling Victoria Elaine Gallagher.  
Maternal grandparents are Gloria Elaine Winters and Darrell Gene and Audrey Hilliard.  
Paternal grandparents are Fredrick and Imogene Lorriane Gallagher.  
She attends Victory Baptist Church.  
She is of the Raccoon Clan and of the Ketchopataka Hillabee Tribal Town.



*Mekko Joaquin Tyner*  
OKMULGEE — Mekko Joaquin Tyner celebrated his first birthday on March 8 with a “Diego” themed party at the Newtown Okmulgee Indian Methodist Church.  
Parents are Dawn and Mekko Tyner.  
He has one sibling Marcus Kitchkommie.  
Paternal grandparents are Claude and Belinda Tyner. Maternal grand parents are the late Douglas and Edwina Crowder. He is of the Wild Potato Clan and the Tallahassee Wvkokaye Ceremonial Ground.



*Daelyn Marie Newman*  
PORTLAND, Ore., — Daelyn Marie Newman celebrated her birthday on March 10th with a ‘Go Eagle’ themed party.  
Parents are Anthony and Teri Newman.  
She has two siblings Anthony Jr. and Baylee Newman.  
Grandparents are Tony and Rebecca Marks Newman.  
Great grandparents are Joseph and Rebecca Marks.  
She attends St.John Apostle School.



*Anthony Newman Jr.*  
PORTLAND, Ore., — Anthony Newman Jr. celebrated his birthday on March 9 with a ‘Go Eagle’ themed party.  
Parents are Anthony and Teri Newman.  
He has two siblings Daelyn and Baylee Newman.  
Grandparents are Tony and Rebecca Marks Newman.  
Great grandparents are Joseph and Rebecca Marks.  
He attends St.John Apostle School.



ACCOMPLISHMENTS

*Dawn Dennison Devorse*  
BROKEN ARROW — Dawn Dennison Devorse celebrated the gift of life with the five-year anniversary of her successful kidney transplant at Los Cabos in Broken Arrow with family and friends on Sat., Feb 7.  
Her parents are David Dennison Sr. and the late Sally Rolland Dennison.  
Her siblings include David, Jr., and wife Danielle, Denise, Tina, and Jessica (Bunny) and husband Anthony Frazier.  
Her nephews are Jason and Alex and nieces are Chelsea and Lindsay.  
Her grand daughter is Lindsey Boo.  
Her maternal grandparents are the late Albert and Nancy Rolland, Sr.  
Her paternal grandparents are the late Josephine Nez of Nascchitti New Mexico.  
She is of the Deer Clan and of the Polecat Ceremonial Ground.  
She wants to remind people to be an organ donor - it saved her life.



*Brian Barnett*  
IRAQ — Brian Barnett is the son of Elaine and Richard Proctor. His grandparents are Dicey and Edward Barnett.  
He has one sister, Paige, and two brothers, Dylan and Jack.  
Emvliktv: Konepvlke.



*Micah Little*  
IRAQ — Micah Little is the son of Karen and Thomas Little.  
His maternal grandparents are Dicey and Edward Barnett and his paternal grandparents are the late Mary and Clarence Little.  
He has four sisters Tawna, Shaunday, Alisa, and Lindsey. Emvliktv: Konepvlke.



*Tawna Smith*  
KUWAIT — Tawna Smith is the daughter of Karen and Thomas Little.  
Her maternal grandparents are Dicey and Edward Barnett and her paternal grandparents are the late Mary and Clarence Little.  
She has one brother, Micah, and three sisters, Shaunday, Alisa, and Lindsey. Emvliktv: Konepvlke.



*Brian, Micah and Tawna*  
Brian, Micah and Tawna come from the same family and are proudly serving in the Army. They are stationed in Iraq and Kuwait. Tawna, Micah, and Brian are adored and loved by their family who are anxiously awaiting their return home!  
They are strong and courageous for their time spent in active duty. To Brian, Micah, and Tawna we send our love and prayers to you and everyone else serving for our country, from the family! Brian and Micah can receive mail (as Tawna will be on her way home to visit soon) their mailing addresses are:

MICAH LITTLE	SPC BRIAN BARNETT/ MORTARS
B CO 2-28 IN	2-25 SBCT
USE MI//SC REO, AL-HILA	HHC/ 1-27
APO, AE 09136	IN SBCT 6260
	APO, AE 09378

*Autumn Harjo*  
MASON — Autumn Harjo is 11 years old and in the fifth grade at Mason Public School.  
She recently placed first in her class spelling bee and also won first in the overall spelling bee for fifth through the eighth grade. She will be competing in the County Spelling Bee on March 14 at Weleetka Public School.  
Parents are Mark and Alison Raines.  
She has two siblings Mariah Harjo and Deven Raines.  
Her grandparents are Nancy (West) Watson and the late Freddie Arkeketa and Simmer and Sharon Hicks.



BIRTHS

*Tenetke Coachman Harjo, II*  
TULSA — Tenetke Coachman Harjo II was born Nov. 12, 2008 at Southcrest Hospital in Shawnee.  
He weighed 4 pounds 13 ounces and was 17 inches long.  
He is the son of Tenetke and Neccettia Harjo.  
He has two siblings Tysie and Sadie Harjo  
Grandparents are Mike and Sharon Proctor and Mike and Opal Harjo.  
Great grandparents are Sam Proctor and Pauline Proctor, the late George and Christen B. Harjo, Josephine Harjo and the late Joe and Nettie Coachman. He is of the Sweet Potato Clan.



Birthdays, Births & Special Announcements!

**Birthday:**  
Roll Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone Number: ( \_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_  
Theme of the party: \_\_\_\_\_  
Parents: \_\_\_\_\_  
Siblings: \_\_\_\_\_  
Maternal and Paternal grandparents: \_\_\_\_\_  
Maternal and Paternal great grandparents: \_\_\_\_\_  
School: \_\_\_\_\_  
Clan: \_\_\_\_\_  
Tribal Town: \_\_\_\_\_

**Birth:**  
Roll Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone Number: ( \_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Hospital: \_\_\_\_\_  
Weight: \_\_\_\_\_ pounds \_\_\_\_\_ ounces \_\_\_\_\_ inches  
Parents: \_\_\_\_\_  
Siblings: \_\_\_\_\_  
Maternal and Paternal grandparents: \_\_\_\_\_  
Maternal and Paternal great grandparents: \_\_\_\_\_  
Clan: \_\_\_\_\_  
Tribal Town: \_\_\_\_\_

**Announcements:**  
Roll Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone Number: ( \_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Parents: \_\_\_\_\_  
Siblings: \_\_\_\_\_  
Maternal and Paternal grandparents: \_\_\_\_\_  
Maternal and Paternal great grandparents: \_\_\_\_\_  
Clan: \_\_\_\_\_  
Tribal Town: \_\_\_\_\_  
Please attach announcement



## Coming and Going in Indian Country

by Joy Harjo

It's late afternoon before the column is due. I've almost emailed the editor twice to say: "it's not possible". I am out on the West Coast rehearsing every night at San Diego State University for my show, Wings of Night Sky, Wings of Morning Light. It will open in Los Angeles in March, as part of the Native Voices at the Autry series. There are a few reasons I am telling you this: 1) I am need of a column ASAP, and mostly 2) maybe this will inspire others who think it's too late to pick up a musical instrument, write a book, learn the language, learn songs, or anything else, because they hit thirty (yes thirty, I've heard many a hitting-thirty panic that they were too old.... give me a break), forty, fifty, sixty, or....

This show is one of the biggest challenges I ever had. First, I had to write the show. I have rewritten the play countless times. I have written, recorded and performed the music for the play, and kept going, even as I have been turned down many times for one thing or another mostly for being too Indian, or not Indian enough. Go figure. And now, one of the most difficult challenges: I have to memorize the play, and to act. I haven't acted since I was a high school student at the Institute of American Indian Arts. I was always the shyest student and usually sat at the back of the class and said nothing.

I begged the director. "Please, let me just read the play." "No way", he said. "You can do it". "Well, at least let me tape all the lines to the floor", I argued. "No", he said. I even looked up how much it cost to rent a teleprompter. They were too expensive, and huge. Writing on my arms was the most cost effective. But I don't have enough arm space for the whole play. So, I'm here this afternoon, memorizing my play. And I'm nearing sixty. ("Nearing" means, I'm closer to sixty than to fifty.)

I don't like to write about myself, in fact, I'm several years late with a book I was contracted to write, because I don't want to write about myself. I write because I love stories and words, and these columns, because I think they might be useful. Maybe by writing this you might decide to keep going, to take care of your gifts, no matter how old you are, seven or hundred. I'm not special. There are many talented people out there in the nation.

I'm including an excerpt from the show. And if any of you make it out to LA between March 12th and March 29th, I'll get you in. Just say you're my relative, or you're with the band. Let me know. I'd be honored.

Redbird Monahwee (to her father): I followed you as you unloaded it from the truck. I helped, as you strung the deer up on the tree. I squatted down with you, as the red sun kissed the red earth. You tamped out some tobacco into our hands.

You said, "We pray with tobacco to acknowledge the spirit of the deer. We give thanks, mvto."

"There is much suffering on this earth. Even plants suffer. Tobacco agreed to come along as we walk this world. It's medicine, a gift from the Creator."

And remember I said, But Daddy, you smoke two packs of Lucky Strikes a day!"

I was such a little plant, drinking in your words.

"And what about whiskey, Dad", I asked you.

"It's killing me", you said.

"I'm sorry, Hokte".



# Harjo accepts leadership award



Photograph submitted by Mekko Tyner

College of the Muscogee Nation students and Native American Student Association (NASA) members at the ONASHE 2009 Conference. First row (l to r): Derek Simpson, Sanica Lining, CMN Academic Administrator Angela Bunner, National Council Representative Cherrah Ridge-Quiett, and Stepson Bigman. Middle row (l to r): Stephan Slinker, Amy Williamson, CMN Instructor Mekko Tyner. Back row (l to r): Russell Wind, NASA Princess Mikka Harjo, Sharon Proctor, and NASA President Tenetke Harjo.

by Angel Ellis  
MNN Senior Writer

OKLAHOMA CITY — Tenetke Harjo, President of the CMN's Native American Student Association and Freshman Tribal services at the College of the Muscogee Nation was recently named the male Outstanding Up and Coming Leader.

Harjo received the honor at the 2nd annual ONASHE Conference, which was held on the campus of the Oklahoma City University and hosted by the Native American Society on February 6-7, 2009.

The mission of ONASHE is to provide opportunities for students to continue to develop and

strengthen their leadership skills by interacting with current tribal leaders, participate in workshops that are relevant to contemporary student and leadership issues and fellowship with students. The hope is that students will leave this conference with a stronger sense of themselves, their community and a connection to students on campuses across the state.

As a nominee for the Outstanding Up and Coming Leader, Harjo had to meet the criteria of being a full-time student at an Oklahoma college/university, maintain a 2.75 cumulative GPA, and be active in leadership positions, campus organizations, community service/tribal

involvement and honors/awards. Harjo also had to submit a one-page statement briefly describing his goals and how they would help him in his future endeavors.

All conference nominees for awards were selected by a group of their peers from the college and universities present at the conference. The ONASHE planning committee, which consisted of Christopher Roman Nose (OCU), Greg Factor (UNITY Inc.), Sedelta Oosahwee (NSU), Mekko Tyner (CMN), Gail Wilcox (CATC), and Robin Williams (OSU) gave the awards the conference luncheon.



# Creeks featured at Tulsa Indian Art Festival

by Angel Ellis  
MNN Senior Writer

TULSA — Enthusiasts and a host of talented artists gathered at the Spirit Bank Event Center beginning Friday, Feb. 13, for the opening night of the three-day festival. Helping kick off the Festival was featured artist, Jon Tiger, a Muscogee (Creek) from Eufaula. Tiger's artwork, which was displayed on promotional materials and posters for the festivals, displays a pair of Creek ball sticks, as well as, a couple dressed in Creek attire. In the distance of the artwork an eagle soars over the silhouette of Tulsa.

In addition to a signing session, guests also enjoyed dining and entertainment. Performers for this year's festival were the sought-after collaborator Arvel Bird and Tulsa's Mahenwahdose. Bird has toured with some of the biggest names in country music and now performs his own unique style, which incorporates Celtic fiddling and Native

American flute, rattle and chants. Mahenwahdose combined the melodic stories of Will Hill and the talented performance of Jehnean Washington, who were the first American Indians to perform at the National Museum of the American Indian at the Smithsonian Institute.

The Muscogee (Creek) citizens were well represented in both entertainers and artists at the Tulsa Indian Art Festival. Donna Branch McAlester, a Muscogee (Creek) was one of the artists displaying their work at the festival. McAlester made the trip from her home in Texas to Tulsa and said, "There's been a great turn out." Strolling casually through the festival one could easily have found themselves among the many talented Muscogee Creeks, such as Tiger, Hill, or McAlester.

Dan Townsend, the 2007 featured artist also returned to the festival. Townsend recently taught a



MNN/Ruth Bible

Pictured is Jon Tiger the Featured Artist of the 2009 Tulsa Indian Art Festival. His work was on display at the festival and featured on the promotional materials.

class at the OSU-Okmulgee campus during the summer of 2008. His work is known all over the world.

The festival wound down on Sunday evening after a busy day of

Trial of Standing Bear," Randolph Mantooth came from California to Tulsa to portray Standing Bear. He commented to Monetta Trepp that since Tulsa is in the heart of

**"It was quite possibly our best year."**  
- Fran Kimmel, Festival Director



MNN/Angel Ellis

Pictured is Muscogee (Creek) Citizen, Donna Branch McAlester, who was one of the artist at the Tulsa Indian Art Festival. McAlester traveled from Texas to display her work at the event.

exhibition dancing, musical performances by Arvel Bird and storytelling by Mahenwahdose.

Fran Kimmel, the festival director said of the event, "We are very pleased with the turn-out, the sales, the venue, and the artists. It is quite possibly the best year the Tulsa Indian Art Festival has seen so far."

Over the years, the festival has hop-scotched locations to hold the event, but the committee expressed their delight in the current location.

The Tulsa Indian Art Festival has had an interesting journey from its humble roots to the current success the event enjoys today. Twenty three years ago when the American Indian Theater performed "The

Indian Country, Indian artwork should play a prominent role in the city and he found none.

Around November, 1986, Monetta and five of her friends met for lunch and Tulsa Indian Art Festival was conceived. The goal was to showcase the outstanding artwork of Oklahoma's Indian Country and to create an awareness of the rich and diverse culture of the American Indian. At that time, there was no other annual Indian fine art market in Oklahoma. There was no money, there were no artists contact; and no one knew what a "festival" should be or how to accomplish whatever that was. Good intentions and faith would be enough.



## OBITUARIES

### THANK YOU

The family expresses their appreciation for the prayerful support and your presence during the farewell homecoming services of our loved one, Gene Harjo.

We thank the ministers officiating the services; Rev. George Doyle and Rev. David Dunson and the ministers who participated during the wake service. We thank Creek Nation Social Services for the financial aid; those from the Road Services Department for opening the grave and especially Salt Creek Methodist Church for allowing us to use their Church. We also thank those contributing food (and preparation of the meals), cards of sympathy, flowers, monetary gifts and words of comfort and prayers were very much appreciated. We extend our love to all of you. MVTO!!

Jimmie Harjo and family, Kindalei Harjo and family, Leola Barnett, Delores Herrod, and all of our kinfolks.

### TERRANCE MARSHALL

WELEETKA — Terrance Rae Marshall, a Weleetka resident was born on February 1, 2001 in Midwest City to Sonny and Tishanne Marshall. He went to be with the Lord on Monday, February 9 in Henryetta at the age of 8 years old.

Terrance loved basketball, football, dodge ball, watching WWF wrestling, attending church and also loved reading his bible very much.

He was preceded in death by his cousins, George Jacobs, Jr. and Max Frye Jr., his aunt, Salana Marshall, and one uncle, James Hunt.

He leaves behind his parents, Sonny and Tishanne Marshall of Weleetka, three brothers, Charles Marshall, Seth Marshall, and Chandler Marshall and one sister, Reanne Marshall. Paternal grandparents Georganne Hicks and Bety Ben, Maternal Grandparents Maggie Lewis, maternal great grandmother, Nanni Lewis, and maternal great grandfather Sonni Kano, as well as a host of aunts, uncles, cousins and other relatives and friends.

Pallbearers were Keith Hicks, Tory Simmars, Jeffery Mead, Kenneth Sour John, Blain Harrison, Ryan Simmars.

Wake services were held on Friday, February 13 at Sand Creek Baptist Church in Wetumka.

Funeral services were held Saturday, February 14 at the Sand Creek Baptist Church with Rev. Harry Anderson officiating. Interment will follow at Hillcrest Cemetery in Weleetka.

### THANK YOU

The brothers and sisters; nieces and nephews of Susan K. Van Woudenberg send their sincere gratitude and appreciation for all the love; support; gifts and flowers during loss and bereavement of our sister; special thank you to all the pastors and pastoral staff and to the Belvin Indian Baptist Church in Okmulgee. Mvto.

### EARL SANDS



CASTLE — Earl Shorty Sands went home to be with the Lord Feb. 06. Earl was born August 22, 1927 to John and Lena (Harjochee) Sands. Earl was baptized on March 4, 1943 at Green Leaf Baptist Church. He later became a member of Tekopvchee Methodist Church on July 28, 1991. Earl was a lifetime resident of Castle, Okla.

Earl was preceded in death by his parents, three children, his brothers Russell, Lemley, and Jonah Sands.

He is survived by his wife of fifty-eight years, Wisey, two sons Clifford and

wife Lisa Sands of Okemah and James Sands of Casle. Three daughters, Irene, Jeannie and Barbara Sands, all of Okemah. One sister, Edith Hicks of Castle. Seven grandchildren, Carol Humble, John Sands, Jeanine Factor, Owen Sands, Brett Sands, Clifton Sands, and Tye Stacy. Seven great-grandchildren, a host of nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

Earl was a retired farmer who loved being around his family. Earl enjoyed many hobbies but loved coon hunting and his dogs. He enjoyed working his puzzle books and playing his guitar. He loved all kinds of music and being outside with his grandchildren and great grandchildren. He also enjoyed all kinds of sports activities. He enjoyed participating in family volleyball games and was a self proclaimed “World Champ” at horse shoes. Earl was a great story teller who had many friends and made new friends where ever he went. Earl loved everyone. He was the best dad, grandpa, and friend. He was always there when his family needed him and always stood by them. Earl was deeply loved and will be missed by all who knew him.

Funeral services were held February 11 at Tvkvpychee Methodist Church. Services were officiated by Paul Fixico and Rev Kenneth Cooper.

Pallbearers were John Sands, Bobby Sands, Mike Sands, Billy Cooper, Keith Humble and Clifton Sands.

Honorary pallbearers were Owen Sands, Tye Stacy, Garrett Sands, Brett Sands, Landon Humble, and Arthur Sands.

Interment was at the Holahta-Sands Family Cemetery.

### DANIEL TOWNSEND



MADISONVILLE, Texas — Memorial services for Mr. Daniel Leckie Townsend, age 67, of Madisonville will be held Thursday February 26, 2009 at 10 a.m., in the First United Methodist Church in Madisonville. Dr. George Wilson, pastor of the church, will officiate at the services.

Following the services, a gathering of friends and a fellowship will be held at the Oak Ridge Country Club in Madisonville.

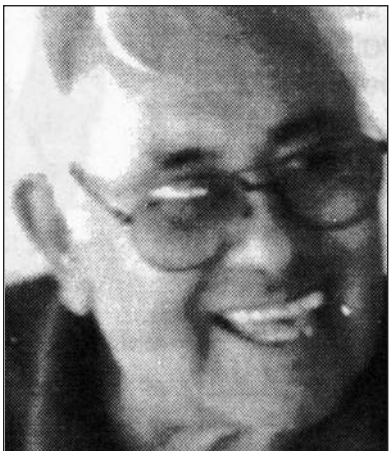
Mr. Townsend was born February 26, 1941 in Ft. Smith, Arkansas to Gerald and Florence Barnett Townsend. He had lived in Madisonville for the last fifteen years but had lived most of his life in Noel, Missouri where his four sons were raised. Mr. Townsend died Sunday evening February 22, 2009 at his residence.

Mr. Townsend was preceded in death by his mother, Florence Townsend and a son, Phillip Townsend. He was retired from the Texas Department of Criminal Justice.

Survivors include his wife Carol Townsend of Madisonville; father, Gerald Townsend of Pryor, Oklahoma, three sons, Brian Townsend and wife Denise of Grapeland, Texas, Curtis Townsend and wife Anita of Austin, Texas and Jeff Townsend and wife Lisa of Alvin, Texas and seven grandchildren, Payson, Mackenzie, Morgan, Carolyn, Eastman, Brooke, and Luke. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the First United Methodist Church, 102 S. McIver, Madisonville, Texas 77864.

### HENRY COKER SR.

HENRYETTA — Henry Coker Sr. age 71, died Sunday, February 1 at home surrounded by his family. He was born n March 26, 1937 in Wewoka to Tom and Helen (Larney) Coker. After serving his



country in the Air Force, he worked as a truck driver.

Surviving him are his wife, Emma (Starr) Coker; sons, Lucas Coker, Henry Coker Jr., Zane Lee Coker, William Phillips, Shannon Starr, and John Billie; daughters, Rachel Farani, Alvina Wallace, Madonna Williams and Anjanette Coker; 20 grandchildren and 5 great grandchildren.

Preceding him in death are his parents and son, Don Coker.

Services were held Feb 4., at Shurden Funeral Home in Henryetta. Rev. Houston Tiger officiated. Burial was at Thomas Family Cemetery.

### SUSAN WOUDENBERG



OKMULGEE — First Thesalonians 5:18. Susan came to earth on Feb. 19, 1953 and was born with a heart of gold. The biblical meaning to her name means “Lily” which brings beauty and light.

More beautiful than all the flowers that blossom in the heart of a Loving Sister. She volunteered in the ministry of Helps whenever she heard: “We need help.”

Ushering people into the “Presence of God” was her passion. To her sisters she was their remembrance of Hope. To her brothers she was their remembrance to find God.

To nieces and nephews she was their remembrance to love God. To her aunts she was their remembrance to be servants. To her cousins she was their remembrance to be aware of the evil one. To her brothers-in-law she was their remembrance to always love their wives (her sisters) for this would point the children to God.

Preceded her in death: Father Elmer Van Woudenberg, Mother Esther Simmer Van Woudenberg, Sister Katherine Van Woudenberg, Sister Ella Mae Woudenberg.

Maternal grandfather Samuel Simmer, Grand mother Sarah Miller Simmer, Great Aunt Polly Homma, Uncles Dave Powell, Abe Simmer, Curtis Simmer, Aunts Bernice Hicks, Pauline Grayson, Nephew Victor Van Woudenberg.

Sisters Chiquita Simmer Smith, Glenda Childers, Irene VanBuskirk, Barbara Van Woudenberg, Gayla Van Woudenberg, Tenna Van Woudenberg.

Brothers: Samuel Van Woudenberg, John Woudenberg, Fredrick Van Woudenberg. Aunts: Rebecca Autaubo, Priscilla Kabehia. Longtime friend / fiancé: Clifford Smith. And several nieces and nephews and cousins, too many to mention.

Yes, another angel went into permanent earthly sleep on January 27, to awaken at that very same moment with our Lord in Heaven.

Funeral Services: Belvin Indian Baptist Church on Feb. 3, officiated by Rev. Nigel Bigpond. Interred at Tallahassee Family Cemetery.

Pall Bearers: Robert H. Smith Jr., Elijah Nasr. Micah Hindman, Edward Simmer, Rocky L. Herd, Michael Van Woudenberg, Whitebird Van Woudenberg, Geoorge Autaubo Jr., Jessie Childers, Robert Kabehia, Josih Van-Burkirk, Dustin Van Woudenberg, Joshua Van Woudenberg, Ricky Powel.

## Legal Notices (con't from A2)

Received

FEB 26 2009

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION  
OKMULGEE DISTRICT

DISTRICT COURT  
FILED

2009 FEB 19 P 4:14

IN RE THE NAME CHANGE OF: )  
JEROME CHUPCO, )  
DOB: 9/2/1939 )

Case Number CV 2009-28  
Judge Patrick E. Moore

NOTICE OF FILING PETITION FOR CHANGE OF NAME

MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION TO: Whom it may concern

Jerome Chupco, born September 2, 1939 has filed a *Petition* in the above Court to have his name changed from Jerome Chupco to Jerry Baker and the same will be heard in the courtroom of Judge Patrick E. Moore, located in the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Okmulgee District, on the 14<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2009 at 10:00 o'clock A.m., or as soon thereafter as counsel can be heard. Any person may file a written protest in this case prior to the date set for the hearing.

Given under my hand a seal this 19<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2009

COURT CLERK  
Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Okmulgee District, Oklahoma  
By: *Jobie King*  
Deputy

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION  
OKMULGEE DISTRICT

DISTRICT COURT  
FILED

2009 FEB 18 P 2:11

IN THE MATTER OF THE  
GUARDIANSHIP OF THE PERSON AND )  
ESTATE OF: )  
BRIANA GRACE MARSHALL )  
and BRADLEY CHARLES RILEY )  
MINOR CHILDREN. )

Case No. GD 2009-2

SERVICE OF SUMMONS  
BY PUBLICATION NOTICE

To: ROBERT KELLY

TAKE NOTICE that you have been sued for Guardianship of a Minor Child in the District Court of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Okmulgee District, GD-2009-02, styled In re the Guardianship of Bradley Charles Riley, a minor child. The action alleges that the petitioner is entitled guardianship over the minor child based on abandonment.

You are notified that you must answer the *Petition* filed by the petitioner on or before the 8<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2009, or the allegations contained in the *Petition* will be taken as true and judgment will be entered against you and in favor of petitioner as prayed for in her *Petition*.

Given under my hand and seal this 18<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2009.

Nancy Jukich, Court Clerk  
Muscogee (Creek) Nation District Court,  
Okmulgee District  
By: *Jennifer Smith*  
(Deputy)

(SEAL)

Approved:  
Shannon L. Prescott, MCN#165  
Kacie Cresswell, MCN#568  
MCN Citizen Legal Services  
114 N. Grand Ave, North Lobby  
Okmulgee, OK 74447  
(918) 756-1112  
(918) 756-1113  
Attorneys for Petitioner

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION  
OKMULGEE DISTRICT

DISTRICT COURT  
FILED

2009 FEB 18 P 2:12

IN THE MATTER OF THE  
GUARDIANSHIP OF THE PERSON AND )  
ESTATE OF: )  
BRIANA GRACE MARSHALL )  
and BRADLEY CHARLES RILEY )  
MINOR CHILDREN. )

Case No. GD 2009-2

SERVICE OF SUMMONS  
BY PUBLICATION NOTICE

To: JASON MARSHALL

TAKE NOTICE that you have been sued for Guardianship of a Minor Child in the District Court of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Okmulgee District, GD-2009-02, styled In re the Guardianship of Briana Grace Marshall, a minor child. The action alleges that the petitioner is entitled guardianship over the minor child based on abandonment.

You are notified that you must answer the *Petition* filed by the petitioner on or before the 8<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2009, or the allegations contained in the *Petition* will be taken as true and judgment will be entered against you and in favor of petitioner as prayed for in her *Petition*.

Given under my hand and seal this 18<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2009.

Nancy Jukich, Court Clerk  
Muscogee (Creek) Nation District Court,  
Okmulgee District  
By: *Jennifer Smith*  
(Deputy)

(SEAL)

Approved:  
Shannon L. Prescott, MCN#165  
Kacie Cresswell, MCN#568  
MCN Citizen Legal Services  
114 N. Grand Ave, North Lobby  
Okmulgee, OK 74447  
(918) 756-1112  
(918) 756-1113  
Attorneys for Petitioner

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION  
OKMULGEE DISTRICT

DISTRICT COURT  
FILED

2009 FEB 18 P 2:22

IN RE THE NAME CHANGE OF: )  
CHRISTINA MARIE CAMPBELL, )  
DOB: 7/1/73 )

Case No. CV 2009-27  
Judge Patrick E. Moore

NOTICE OF FILING PETITION FOR CHANGE OF NAME

MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION TO: Whom it may concern

Christina Marie Campbell, born July 1, 1973 has filed a *Petition* in the above Court to have her name changed from Christina Marie Campbell to Christina Marie McIntosh and the same will be heard in the courtroom of Judge Patrick E. Moore, located in the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Okmulgee District, on the 14<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2009 at 10:00 o'clock A.m., or as soon thereafter as counsel can be heard. Any person may file a written protest in this case prior to the date set for the hearing.

Given under my hand a seal this 18<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2009

COURT CLERK  
Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Okmulgee District, Oklahoma  
By: *Jobie King*  
Deputy



SPORTS

# The stars come out for Madness in March

• All-Indian basketball tournament has showcased some of the country’s top talent

by Jason Salsman  
MNN Sports Reporter

HENRYETTA — Let’s say you are watching next year’s womens NCAA basketball tournament. You are continually amazed by the dynamic guard play of Kansas’ Angel Goodrich, but can’t help switching over to see the finesse post game of Tennessee’s Alyssia Brewer. Then you ask yourself, “wow, how cool would it be to see those two play on the same team?” I hate to break it to you, but if you were at the 2008 All-Indian Madness in March Tournament in Henryetta, you could have seen just that.

The two college superstars were paired together during the pool play competition and did nothing to disappoint the buzzing crowd that watched their every move.

“It seemed like every eye in the gym was on those two,” said Victor Bear, who helps coordinate the tournament. “It’s a nice testament to the kind of talent that gathers every year at this tournament.”

Since it’s inaugural year in 2003, the All-Indian Madness in March Tournament has boasted some of the top basketball players in the country, and is quickly building up a formidable alumni list. Last year, the top draw was Goodrich and Brewer, the two top female players in the state of Oklahoma. Goodrich signed with the University of Kansas Jayhawks, and although she is rehabbing a torn knee ligament, figures to be a starting contributor next year. Brewer, meanwhile, signed with the Tennessee Lady Vols and is seeing significant minutes in her first year under the tutelage of college basketball’s all-time



Photos courtesy of 4 Love of the Game, Kansas Athletics and AP photographer Wade Payne

Pictured above at far left is Angel Goodrich making a move on a defender during semi-final action at the 2008 All-Indian Madness in March Tournament. To the right, Goodrich is introduced to the fans at Phog Allen Fieldhouse on the campus of the University of Kansas during the “Midnight Madness” celebration. 2008 Madness in March MVP Alyssia Brewer, second from right, is shown taking the ball to the hoop during last years M.I.M. All-Star Game. Brewer now gets snapped in photos playing for her new team, the Tennessee Lady Volunteers.

winningest coach Pat Summit.

But what makes the tourney so special, is that those two athletes are only part of a group of elite-level talent that have come through and wowed the crowd. Jenna Plumley played in the tournament for three years before heading to the University of Oklahoma on full scholarship. Eric Cazenave is an all-conference performer and an All-

American candidate for the UCO Broncos, but not before the sharpshooting guard ripped the twines during the very first Madness in March back in 2003. A trio of alumni, Zac Goodrich, Brandon Bark and Randy July, headed north to Sterling College in Kansas and helped the Warriors win their first regular season conference championship this season. Cassie Considine commanded

respect in the post with her 6’3” frame and sound fundamentals. Now, she is an impact freshman in Annapolis as a member of the women’s team at the U.S. Naval Academy.

What makes the tourney even more special is that these athletes are just a small amount of participants in the annual event that have gone on to college to further their education. One

of the main focal points of the week’s events is stressing the value of education, and not just for those interested in extending their athletic career.

So if you’ve never experienced this great showcase, definitely make a point to be in town when Madness in March hits in 2009. You never know how many rising stars you can watch as they climb to the top.

# Creek runner excels at OBU

• Billy Christy from Eufaula qualifies for nationals

by Gerald Wofford  
MCN Communications

SHAWNEE — The history of the Native American runner is a rather romantic one. It seems if their is one athletic endeavor that Indians seem to be connected to is the sport of running. Often we hear about the long distance runners that many of the tribes from out west have represented, from long distance marathons to the short sprints, the history of running, and track and field have come to be infused with Native American athleticism.

Probably what Jim Thorpe accomplished almost 100 years ago solidified that reputation as well.

That excellent reputation continues as well on the campus of Oklahoma Baptist University (OBU). This is where Muscogee (Creek) Runner Billy Christy has been setting himself apart from the competition. The junior from Eufaula, Okla. was an All-American on the OBU Track team last year and looks to do the same this year.

Christy has already qualified for a National Tournament while competing at the Oklahoma Christian Indoor Invitational in February.



Christy has been successful all season long at OBU, and started the season off strong at the Kansas State All-Comers meet. Christy took first

place in the 600 with a time of 1:13:39. Christy would improve on that time at the University of Oklahoma’s J.D. Martin Indoor Track Meet in January. Christy had a time there of 1:12:80.

OBU track coach Ford Mastin has enjoyed the success of Christy and the team as well. “I believe we had the best team at both National meets last year. We worked hard and expected a lot,” said Mastin, who is in his 13th year of coaching the OBU Bison track squad.

Christy now looks forward to the National Association of Inter-collegiate Athletics (NAIA) Indoor Championships that will take place March 5-7.

Considering his accomplishments from last year, garnering All-American honors during his first campaign, and his strong start, the sky seems to be the limit for this young Creek runner and Christy expects good things to continue to happen.

## HOTCORNER

What’s happening ‘stecat’s! Good to be back for this month’s edition of the Hot Corner. Glad to be holding down the 3-bag once again, and I hope all the fellas out there didn’t break their banks on Valentine’s Day. I don’t really like it that much. I’m one of the good guys so I say, just be good to your ladies 365 days out of the year. That way, she won’t need diamonds or roses to know how you feel about her. Ok, when did I transform into Dr. Phil? What am I doing?? This is a sports column for cryin’ out loud! I got off subject with my two-cent rambling, so let’s just stick to what I DO know.

I know when March arrives everybody gets a little crazy about basketball, and trust me I’m right there with you. The NCAA Tournament might be the greatest sports spectacle that we have going right now, honestly. But my motor gets a little extra power this time of year because I’m a baseball man. Yep, when everyone else is hearing sneakers squeak on gym floors, I’m hearing the opening riff of John Fogerty’s “Center Field.” If you’re not familiar with the tune, its the “put me in coach, I’m ready to play” song. By now, I’m sure you’ve got it.

Anyway, spring training is under way and whether your eyes are focused on Arizona or Florida, one simple truth remains; there is no better time than now for the “purist” baseball fan. I say that because this is the only time of year you’ll see managers walking around with fungos, you’ll see twenty-year olds getting their first taste of what it’s like to be big league. And more importantly, you see a limited return of fundamentals and situational baseball. These are things that waved “bye-bye” to the game a while back and it stinks. You can watch every game from opening day to the final out of the World Series and you might see 50 instances of a hit and run. That’s crazy. Somewhere Coach Wiley Ryal is shaking his head., and I’m right there with him cause I’m just as old school. My favorite teams of

all time were those mid-80’s St. Louis Cardinals squads. Willie McGee, Terry Pendleton, Vince Coleman and “The Wizard” didn’t smash home runs.

They beat you with speed, defense, instincts and baseball savvy smarts. What happened?

Oh, that’s an easy question to answer. Look no further than the root of all evil; money. Baseball commissioners, owners, general managers and players weren’t content to leave the game as America’s past-time. They wanted to make it big business. How do you maximize profit?

By putting butts in the seats. And those people coming to watch are a new fan base, not the old purists. And what do the new school folks want to see? Certainly not good, situational baseball. No, they want to see balls flying out of the yard at a historic pace. Never mind that these guys are now injecting themselves with steroids, and tainting the history of the grand game. They’re bringing in more money! That’s all that matters to the baseball brass. Why else would they turn their heads and act like they have been in the dark for all these years when it came to performance-enhancing drugs in baseball? Make no mistake about it, they knew. And what’s sad is players like Alex Rodriguez, Jason Giambi and a host of others have to be led to the slaughter house while there is no accountability for those pushing the buttons. Now I’m against what A-Rod and Giambi have done. They have cheated the game and those guys have to live with that. But why do the big-wigs get to sit back and stay off the firing squad? It will never be the same either way. Big baseball is here to stay, because that is what brings the dough in. And don’t be too quick to blame the players and their ballooned salaries. I know they make and ask for too much. But commissioner Bud Selig last year made \$17 million, which was more than all but four players in the league. Can we please start getting a better example from the top?



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# The Muscogee (Creek) Nation District Court

*Presents the 7th Annual*

## Doing Business in Indian Country® CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION SEMINAR March 12-13, 2009

### Outline of Day One Thursday, March 12th, 2009

- 8:30 Registration & Complimentary Hot Breakfast
- 8:40 Ceremonial Opening Exercise
- 8:50 Welcome & Introductions by District Court Judge Patrick E. Moore & Comments by Principal Chief A.D. Ellis
- 9:00 Indian Tribal Energy Development & Self-Determination Act, Judith Royster, Professor of Law, University of Tulsa
- 10:00 Break
- 10:10 Indian Tribal Energy Development & Self-Determination Act, Judith Royster, Professor of Law, University of Tulsa
- 11:00 Cossey v. Cherokee Nation, LLC
- 11:50 Complimentary Lunch – Culinary Arts Chefs, OSUIT
- 1:15 Ethical Considerations with Indian Tribes Shelly Grunsted, JD, LL.M. – Professor, University of Oklahoma
- 2:20 Break
- 2:30 Water Law and Land Rights – Where's the Sovereignty? Richard Monette
- 3:30 Exerting Sovereignty in Responsible, Renewable, and Revenue Building Ways - Shannon Prescott, JD, Glendening, McKenna & Prescott
- 4:30 Question & Answer Period – Entire Panel
- 5:00 Muscogee (Creek) Nation Bar Association Swearing-In Ceremony Justices of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Supreme Court
- 5:30 Complimentary Barbecue Dinner at the Okmulgee Casino

### Outline of Day Two Friday, March 13, 2009

- 8:30 Opening Remarks – District Court Judge Patrick E. Moore
- 9:00 Tribal Employment Responsibilities: Federal & State Mandates - Phillip Wilson
- 10:00 Break
- 10:05 Ethical Responsibility – It all Starts with You Nim Razook, Professor
- 11:00 Redefining Tribal Entity through Economic Development Mark Jarboe
- 12:00 Complimentary Lunch – Culinary Arts Chefs, OSUIT
- 1:30 National Indian Gaming Commission's Proposed Class II Regulations - Joe Valandara
- 2:20 Break
- 2:30 National Indian Gaming Regulations NIGC Representative
- 3:20 Panel Discussion: Question & Answer Session Seminar Speakers
- 4:30 Closing Comments and Evaluations
- Adjourn

### REGISTRATION FORM DOING BUSINESS IN INDIAN COUNTRY – 2009

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